

SOLDIER

NOVEMBER 13 1989

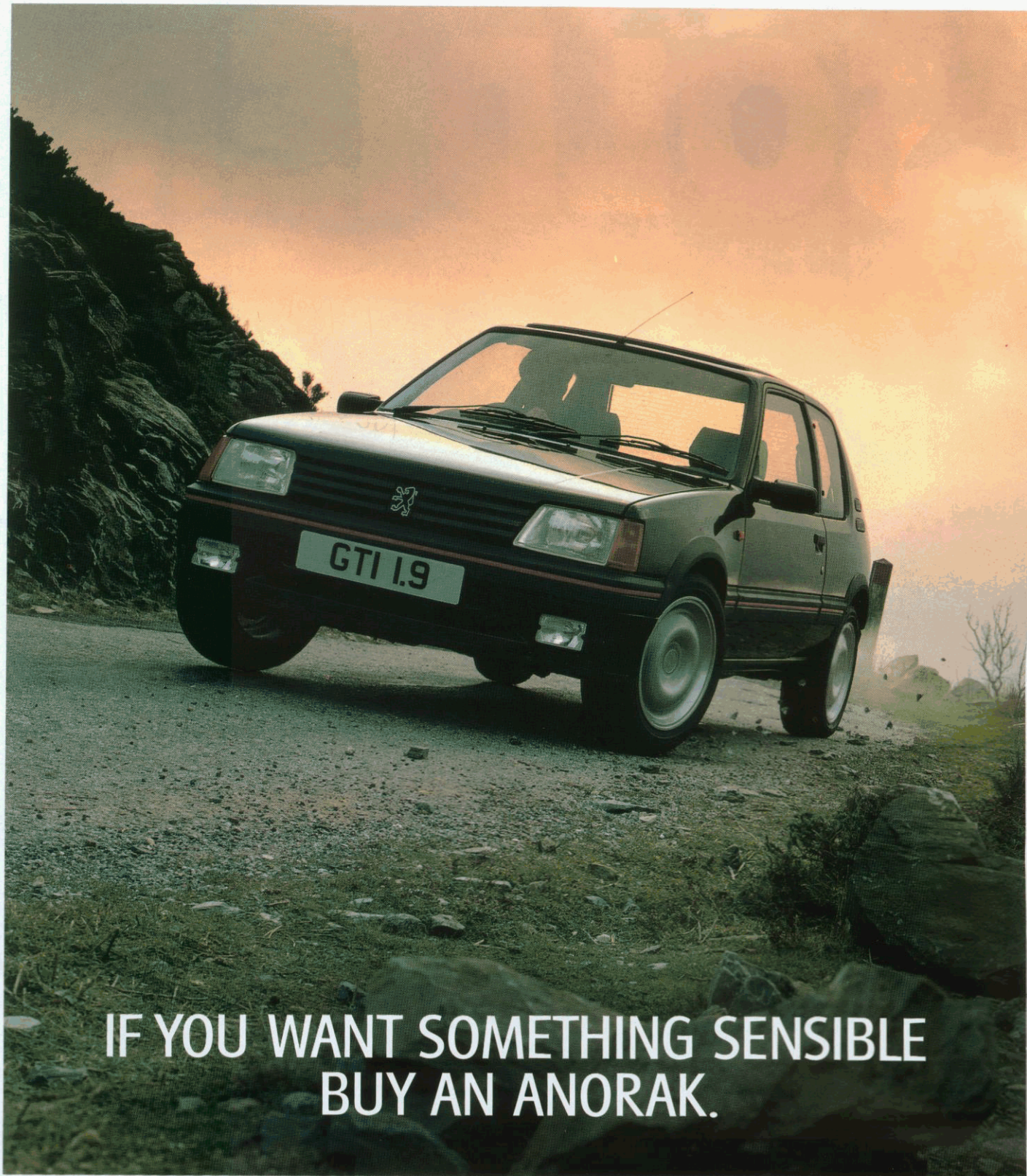
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FRONT COVER: Salisbury Plain, autumn 1989. A machine gunner of 7 R Anglian waits for the order to advance during Exercise Polar Bear. A report and more pictures appear in Pages 17 to 19.

Picture: Mike Perring

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**NEXT
ISSUE**

Tragic events in BAOR have forced Service personnel and their families to look at their own security. The comments of wives of soldiers serving with Dortmund based 19 Field Regiment RA are included in a feature on the regiment. PLUS a look at the UDR Depot. PLUS Exercise Grand Canyon. Don't miss it.

Managing Editor

Chris Horrocks Ext 2355

Editor

John Elliott Ext 2356

Assistant Editors

Bill Moore Ext 2361

Laurie Manton Ext 2362

Jennifer Griffiths Ext 2360

Art Editor

David Stevens Ext 2169

Picture Editor

Terry Champion Ext 2357

Photographers

Mike Weston and Mike Perring Ext 2357

Librarian

Bill Stroud Ext 2351

Advertising/Promotions

Lindsey Champion Ext 2352

Accounts/Distribution

Gillian Alexander Ext 2353

Fax

Ext 2358

VOL. 45/23

NOVEMBER 13, 1989

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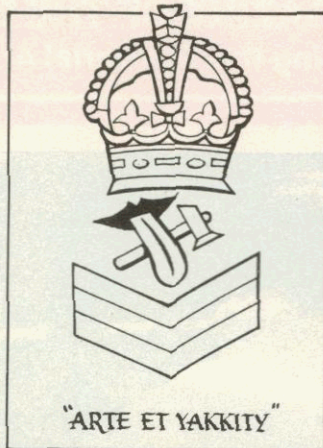
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Tongue-twister!

WITH reference to the letter about floating crowns (SOLDIER, October 2), I have searched dress regulations to discover why or if a gap should be allowed on the left arm of No 2 dress when wearing a trade badge on the right arm only, but to no avail. I can only assume tailors are in the same boat.

By the way, the REME trade badge is a pair of hammer and tongs, not *tongues*, at least until we are taken over by the WRAC! – SSgt J Cassidy, 38 Sig Regt (V) LAD, REME, Sheffield.



needed to consider more specialised applications.

Perhaps this is the badge of a separate branch of the ACC whose task is the manufacture of tongue pâté; or, by a stretch of the imagination, NCOs of the Intelligence Corps who specialise in Russian languages.

Now, cross tongues would be much easier to explain and would apply to any HQ staff responsible for long winded and over elaborate orders and

instructions, but where would the hammer come in?

Perhaps after all this is simply the badge of the linguist farrier, trained to calm horses imported from foreign parts while fitting their shoes. – **Brian S Baxter, Deputy Curator, REME Museum, Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berks.**

Lop-sided

With reference to the letter on floating crowns, if the writer had thought for a moment longer he would realise that the "floating" crowns to which he refers are all depicted on the left arms of the soldiers concerned.

This is because there is just such another trade or skills badge on the right arm and the crown has to be worn at the same level or the soldier appears lop-sided. – **T M Brown, 17 Tennyson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham.**

The right to wear 'wings'

I have just read your article "Duke entitled to wear para badge" (SOLDIER, Oct 2). It is a subject dear to my heart having been a past parachute trained member of 16 Parachute Brigade.

To be entitled to wear the military parachute badge with wings an individual must have successfully completed the appropriate selection course at a recognised RAF parachute training school and have been on the posted strength of a unit where in the course of his duties he may drop by parachute.

Personnel who successfully complete the parachute selection but who do not subsequently serve on the posted strength of an airborne unit are entitled only to wear the *parachute badge without wings*, ie "the light bulb".

An individual who has to make a parachute drop on operations or against the enemy will be authorised to wear the parachute badge with wings.

I write at length about this subject as an individual who has had occasion to inform a senior non commissioned officer that para ascending does not entitle an individual to the automatic issue of parachute badge with wings! – **Capt R J Duffy, 38th Signal Regt (V), Hurlfield Road, Sheffield.**

Who's badge?

I WAS intrigued to read the letter about floating crowns. What regiment or corps, I wondered, could require its staff sergeants to wear a badge of crossed hammer and *tongues*? Talking at great length and beating about the bush is a common military trait so one

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Calling . . .

● **REME 10 Base Wksp, Madras 1946-7.** Friends of Mal "Wilkie" Wilkin are asked to contact him at 87 Dutton Crescent, Hamersley, 6022, Perth, W Australia.

● **Sgt Loftus, Hamburg, Altona 1950.** Please contact former daily help Christa Hansen's son CB015228, CT Bowers SL, Sgts Mess, RAF Bruggen, BFPO 25.

● **Sapper AE Munday** who was a POW at Stalag 88, Upper Silesia from January 1943 to May 1945, having been rescued by U-515 in the North Atlantic after the ss *Ceramic* had been torpedoed on December 6, 1942. Please contact Mr Gordon Haddon, PO Box 190, Paulshof, Transvaal 2056, Republic of South Africa.

Hameln sappers smash bridge building record

SAPPERS from 35 Engineer Regiment based at Hameln, West Germany smashed the world speed record for building a medium girder bridge during a three day festival of sport staged at Quebec Barracks, Osnabrück.

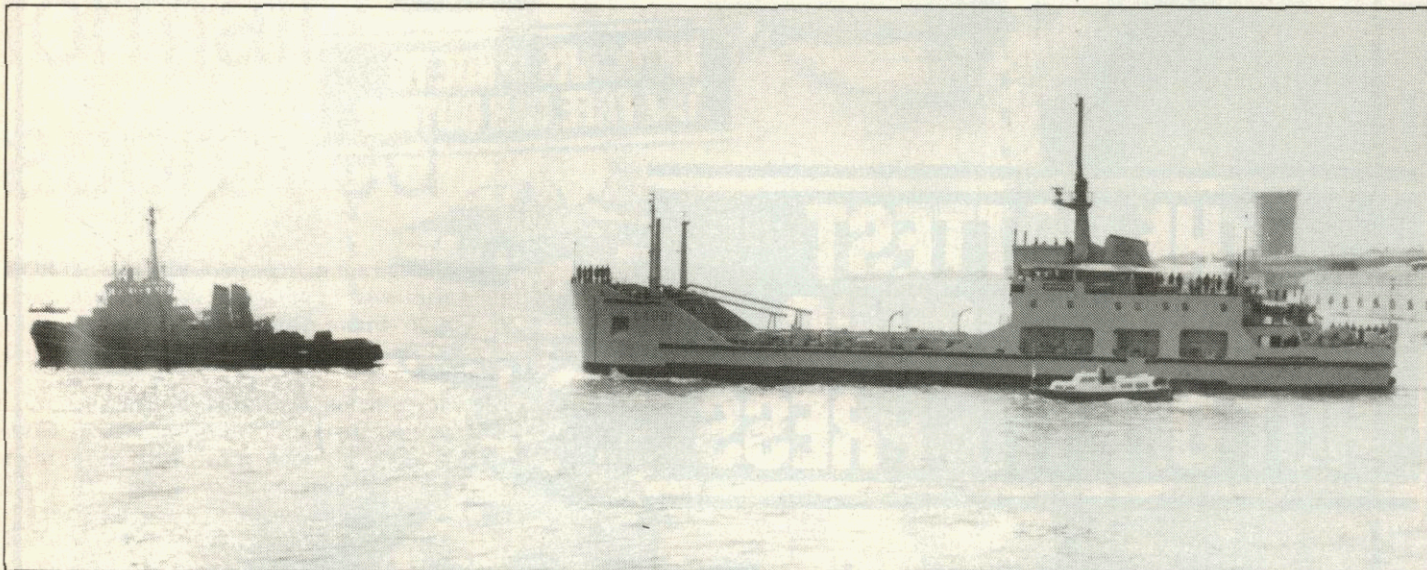
The new record time of eight minutes 31

seconds was 28 seconds quicker than the previous best, set by 26 Engineer Regiment from Iserlohn last year.

Hours of intensive training lay behind the 35 Engr Regt success.

They finished nearly two minutes ahead of nearest rivals 140 Pioneer Battalion of the

German Army. Seven British Army teams based in Germany took part in the bridge building competition, as did a Territorial Army team from Nottingham, a United States Army team from Bad Gonnstatt, West Germany, and the German Pioneer team from Emmerich.



Escorted by a tug and the Queen's Harbourmaster in his barge, *HMAV Ardennes* departs from HM Gunwharf, Portsmouth for the last time

Minefield rescuer rewarded

AN Army captain who led five soldiers to safety when they were stranded in a minefield in Cyprus has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct. During a fire in the buffer zone in Nicosia he entered a minefield left over from the 1974 war to rescue five members of a fire-fighting party who were being pushed back through the minefield by the advancing flames.

The award to Capt Raymond Brooks, RAOC, who is currently serving with United Nations forces in Cyprus, is in recognition of the bravery which he displayed in going into the minefield, against advice, to lead the soldiers out.

A fire started in undergrowth in the buffer zone bordering the UN Protected Area in Nicosia and spread rapidly towards the married quarters and accommodation area. Capt Brooks took command of all fire-fighting parties, remaining at the scene throughout the night of June 8, during which a total of 13 explosions were heard as anti-personnel mines were detonated by the heat.

At noon the following day, with the fire

Soldiers sail away from Portsmouth base

WHEN *HMAV Ardennes* of 20 Maritime Regiment RCT sailed from Her Majesty's Gunwharf at Portsmouth it marked the end of an Army connection with the city dating back to 1662.

Led by a tug spraying water, the *Ardennes* made her farewell departure to the skirl of bagpipes and a cacophony of ships' hooters. Army ships had used Gunwharf for centuries and it was the home port of 20 Maritime Regiment and its predecessors from 1957. The regiment has now been absorbed into 17 Port Regiment RCT which itself will become 17 Port and Maritime

Regiment and will be based just down the coast at Marchwood, where work on the major redevelopment of the military port was completed this summer.

20 Maritime Regiment's departure from Portsmouth was marked by a farewell lunch on board the *Ardennes* attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the city, and by Brig David Kinnear, DDGTM, and Col Guy Yeoman, Comd 3 Tpt Gp RCT. Later, the commanding officer, Col John Davies, presented a framed print of the *Ardennes* to the Lord Mayor to commemorate 20 Regt's long link with Portsmouth.



Capt Brooks

still burning fiercely, five soldiers were seen approaching the blaze through the minefield, into which they had inadvertently strayed.

Ordering the men to stand still, Capt Brooks entered the minefield although advised not to do so, moving slowly forward from stone to stone towards the soldiers.

On reaching them, Capt Brooks briefed them on how to proceed and led the group to a position where a helicopter could lift them all to safety out of the minefield and away from the fire. By his selfless courage Capt Brooks may well have prevented the injury or death of the soldiers concerned, says the citation.

Notice to subscribers

Sorry, folks, but because of the increased postal charges which came into effect on October 2 **SOLDIER's** annual subscription rates are being raised from January 1. The new rates will be £15.05 (UK) and £19.55 (overseas). The BFPO rate remains the same at £10 for 25 issues. The cover price will remain at 40p.

The postage increases will also be passed on with immediate effect for **SOLDIER Easibinders**. New prices are £7.20 (UK), £6.25 (BFPO), £7.28 (overseas).

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Infantry skills formally approved

FOR the first time soldiers from the fighting arms of the British Army are to have their skills acknowledged by the award of a qualification which will be recognised by civilian employers.

Announcing this major new initiative, an MoD spokesman said: "It is expected that from April 1990 work done on soldiers' Phase 1 and 2 courses together with regimental experience will entitle a soldier to a City and Guilds London Institute qualification jointly awarded with the Army."

The project has been worked out by the Army in conjunction with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

Initially the scheme will cover soldiers from the Infantry, Royal Artillery and the Royal Armoured Corps, but talks are going on to take it further and include others, including the Territorial Army who are not included in a similar scheme announced by the Army in Scotland.

Said the spokesman: "It is a similar scheme to that north of the border and organised in tandem, but for the first time skills attained by the infantry soldier will be recognised in civil life."

The announcement follows the news that the Scottish Vocational Education Council (SCOTVEC) and Scottish infantry regiments have signed an agreement on civilian qualification recognition.

Scottish soldiers will be the first to gain qualifications based on Army training and recognised by potential employers.

Through a partnership with the eight Scottish infantry regiments, SCOTVEC has identified National Certificate modules which match particular areas of infantry training. This has been achieved without any alteration to the Army's training programme.

In addition, National Certificate modules gained through Army training will augment those already achieved at school or college.

Said the Chairman of SCOTVEC, Dr Peter Clarke: "This agreement with the Army marks a significant milestone in the development of partnerships between SCOTVEC and major organisations with quality training. We welcome the initiative taken by the Army in Scotland to be the first of the defence services in the UK to achieve such a partnership."

The pilot scheme is the start of what is



Picture: Mike Perring

Maj Gen Peter Istead was the reviewing officer at the apprentice chefs' pass out parade at the Army Apprentice College, Army Catering Corps, Aldershot. He is Director General of Logistic Police (Army) and is pictured talking to a member of the apprentices' band. Looking on is Band Sgt Maj Phillip Colley. Seventy five apprentices were on parade

said to be a very exciting development for SCOTVEC and the Scottish Infantry.

In their research SCOTVEC visited the Scottish Division Depot at Glencorse, the Junior Infantry Battalion at Ouston, 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards and 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and the advanced infantry training centres at Warminster and Brecon. Future developments of more SCOTVEC modules for

specialists and senior ranks should be a natural and rapid progression.

The scheme covers the basic infantryman from private through section corporal to rifle platoon sergeant in the following way:

A Scottish Infantry soldier receives six months' recruit training at the depot and with six months' experience after joining his battalion he becomes a trained soldier Grade 2. He can be awarded with SCOTVEC modules including outdoor pursuits, communications, personal effectiveness, assembly skills, work safety and first aid.

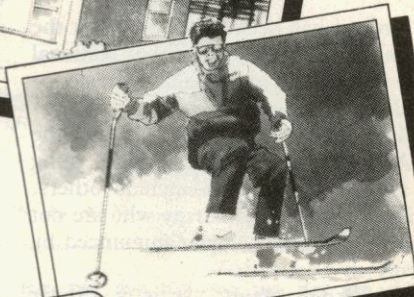
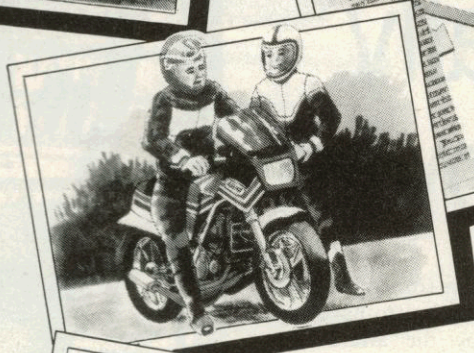
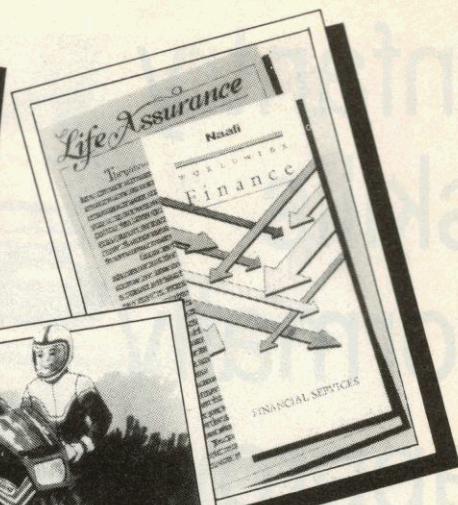
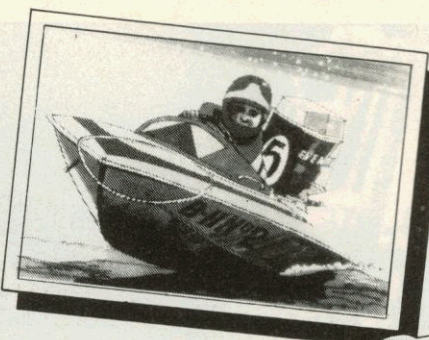
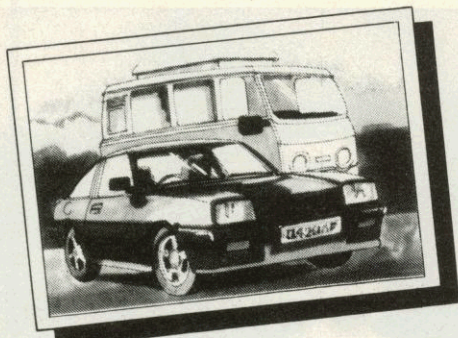
For the trained soldier, the training process never ceases. Through courses, experience and his own ability he could be promoted to lance corporal or corporal in four or five years. Now into junior management he would be responsible for eight to ten men. By qualifying on the appropriate professional courses he can obtain more modules including training skills, accident prevention and emergency procedures, further personal effectiveness, supervision and management.

As a sergeant with eight or nine years service he would be in middle-management and so acquire more modules.

Airport alert

CAMBRIDGE Airport went on red alert for a hijacking and subsequent aircraft crash – but all in the line of duty. Exercise Anne was staged by 254 Field Ambulance (Volunteers), to test the county's emergency services in major incident procedures.

The Cambridge medics called on 115 Squadron at RAF Benson for help, and the airmen obliged by providing an Andover aircraft to give the exercise more reality. The band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, based at Oakington Barracks, Cambridge won several Oscar nominations for their "casualty" roles.



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BRITCON 'minnows' lead way in Sinai

THE tiny British Contingent in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) Sinai, took part in a skills competition at North Camp, El Gorah and more than held their own.

Competition was split into major and minor units for which teams were selected on unit strength. BRITCON, with just 37 members ranking from colonel to private and the second smallest contingent in the MFO, was among the minor units alongside the French, Canadians, Uruguayans, Italians and Dutch.

Major units consisted of four Fijian, four Colombian, four US battalion and four 1st Support Battalion (US) teams.

First was the driving section designed to test first aid (scene of an accident), fault finding, wheel changing and skill around an obstacle course.

The BRITCON team, selected three days before the event, was made up of Sgt Graham Constable, RA, and Cpl Geordie Richardson, RCT. Their only real problems



Pte John Goodall, DWR, looks apprehensive during the Sinai skills test



The gallant BRITCON team. From left (back) LBdr Paul Fairbank, Mne Somerton-Rees, Pte John Goodall; (front) Mne Paul Mawer and LCpl Dave Sabiston-Dunn

were on the hazardous obstacle course which eventually defeated Sgt Constable but failed to stop Cpl Richardson scoring again for BRITCON.

In the Skill at Arms competition each team had five members, with BRITCON having only seven available junior ranks from which to choose.

In the BRITCON team were LBdr Paul Fairbank, 7 RHA, who led the group, LCpl Dave Sabiston-Dunn, RE, Mne Dave "Shotgun" Somerton-Rees, RM, Mne Paul Mawer, RM, and Pte John Goodall, DWR. Cpl Geordie Richardson, RCT, was in reserve.

Their training was done in free time under the supervision of Sgt Drew Dunford, RAOC, who became the team manager. The team had to be prepared for testing on all the military skills widely used within the MFO - map reading, force recognition, minefield clearance, equipment resupply, physical skills, general knowledge, first aid and reporting procedure.

All testing was based on the American system, and all team members used American webbing and the M16 rifle.

After leading on the academic skills, the BRITCON team was overtaken by the Fijians on the obstacle/firing course.

But BRITCON scored high, pushing up among the major units to finish close behind the formidable Fijians who took the first four places.

In fifth place overall was a US battalion team and then came the unexpected British, first out of the six minor units with the Dutch second, and sixth out of the 16 major units.

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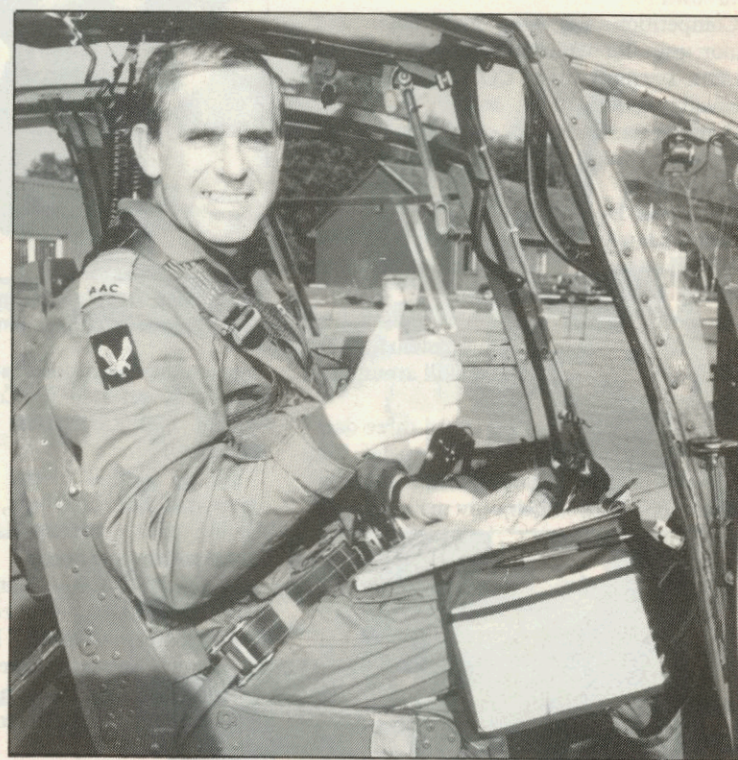
Early goodbye

After breakfast a hit squad of Support Troop "heavies" attacked the island and carried the QM away for the last time before he joins the R Mons RE(M).



**Sammi joins
the Jamaicans**

Capt **Rickie Bhabuta**, RAMC, of 19 Field Ambulance, but attached to MRS Colchester, and Lt **Ian Crowe**, RAMC, of the Environmental Health Division of RAMC Training Centre, Keogh Barracks, Aldershot received the money for the efforts they made on National No Smoking Day 1989.

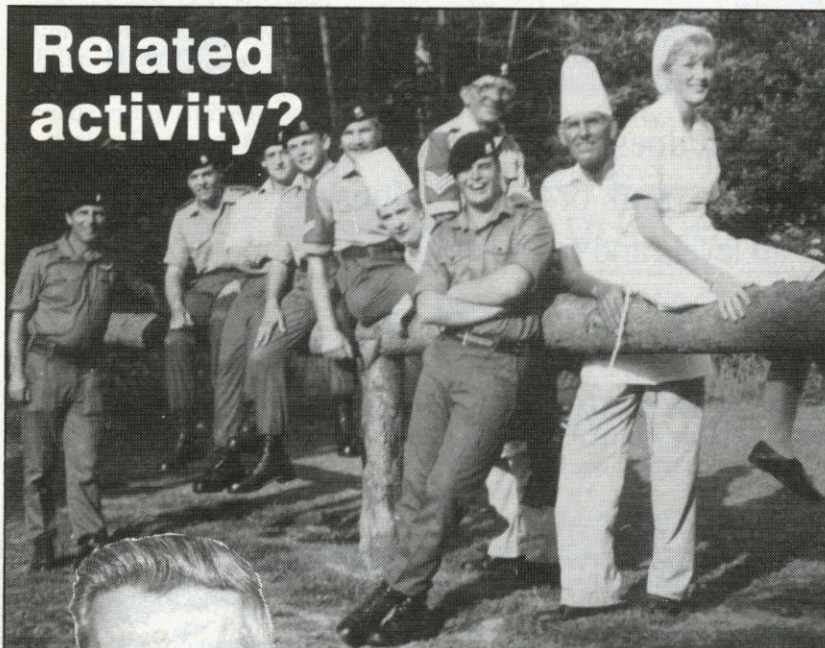


That's a whole lot of flying!

Ken, who until August was on the staff of Commander Army Aviation BAOR at Bielefeld, was met on his return to HQ British Rear Combat

Zone, Düsseldorf by Brig **Peter Palmer**, Commander (BR) RCZ, Col **Chris Mitchinson**, Chief of Staff, and senior colleagues for a champagne celebration to mark his flying landmark. In 20 years with the AAC Ken has flown almost every type of helicopter in British service as well as American Huey and Blackhawk aircraft.

Related activity?



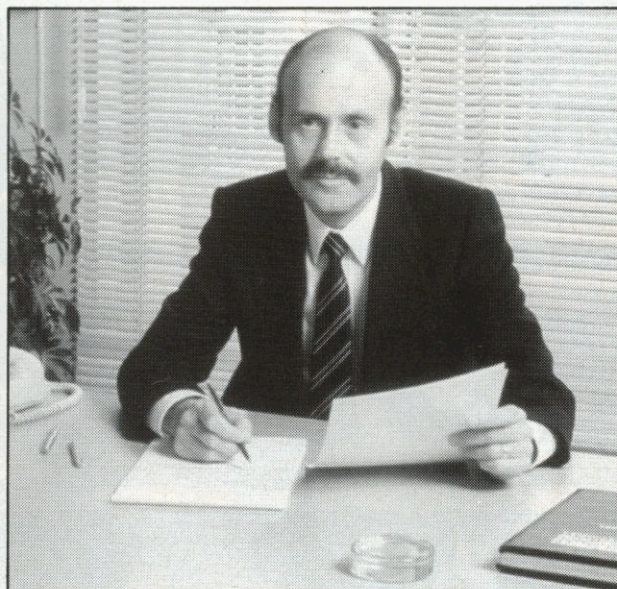
From left to right are Lt Col **Ivan Clarke**, WFR, the CO; OCdt **Jonathan Fisk** and brothers 2nd Lt **Tony Fisk** and 2nd Lt **Peter Fisk**; driver Cpl **Andy Greenslade** and cook Cpl **Graham Greenslade**, both sons of Sgt **Les Greenslade**, the mess sergeant; OCdt **Simon Clarke**, son of the CO; and Cpl **Roy Croker** and daughter WPte **Sarah Croker**, both cooks.

Watch it, Julie



Led by Capt **Mark Freeman**, RE, Julie and the rest of the international team are diving on the reef to inject the predators with copper sulphate.

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Heroes of Arnhem

A memorial has been unveiled in the Netherlands to commemorate the British and Canadian engineers who lost their lives during Operation Berlin.

The operation involved the evacuation of the remnants of the British and Polish paras across the lower reaches of the Rhine at Oosterbeek and Arnhem on the night of September 25, 1944.

The Battle of Arnhem was still raging and the situation on the Oosterbeek perimeter had become critical for the surrounded paras.

It was decided all those not needed and not badly wounded should be evacuated across the Rhine in an operation code-named "Berlin".

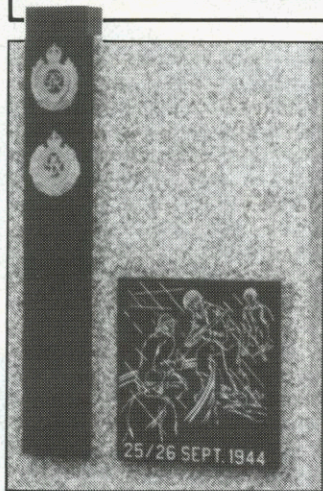
The task was allotted to two British field companies, 260 and 553 with their assault boats, and two Canadian field companies, 20 and 23, using storm boats.

From Nijmegen the trucks loaded with boats moved north through enemy positions along the road to Driel and the south bank of the Rhine opposite the Oosterbeek perimeter.

Under covering fire from British artillery at Nijmegen the British and Canadian sappers crossed and re-crossed the river all through the night, rescuing a total of 2,400 men.

Under machine gun and mortar fire many lives were lost, but the sappers stayed on the river until dawn forced a halt to the operation.

At the unveiling ceremony



The memorial at Driel

Maj Gen Sir John Frost, who commanding 2 Para, said the Parachute Regiment frequently found that sappers could fight and do everything better than they could.

"We have a tremendous admiration for them. Quite often when we were in dire straits they had to carry out a counter attack as infantry, and we really feel they were as fearless an infantry force as they were sappers!"

A memorial to members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who died on active service during the years 1945-1967 is to be unveiled next spring but RHQ is finding it difficult to locate close relatives of those whose names are to be inscribed on the memorial.

SOLDIER to Soldier

The last Cameronian?

Bit of a barney at the WO's and Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers where there is a long standing argument over the claim that the last serving ex Cameronian is now a Borderer.

He is 24101926 WO2 (TQMS) Peter McHarg who

served in B Coy at Redford Cavalry Barracks, Edinburgh at the time of the regiment's disbandment.

Says the RSM of 1 KOSB, WO1 Frank Morton: "It would be extremely interesting to hear of any other regiment laying claim to this title because members went far and wide. Replies to TQMS, 1 KOSB and hopefully this argument will be laid to rest!"

Naafi past

A historical collection recording nearly 70 years of service by Naafi to HM Forces through war and peace has opened at Naafi's London HQ.

Among thousands of exhibits on show are a delivery bicycle, meal vouchers, campaign medals, a captured Argentine ration pack and a wartime ENSA show programme. It was established in 1974 by the late Lt Col Howard Cole.

Pioneer birthday

Functions were held throughout Europe to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Pioneer Corps. The celebrations included one at Simpson Barracks, Northampton, the RPC's home for 29 years after it moved from a hutted camp in Wrexham.

The corps took its place alongside the infantry and lost 2,800 men in the Second World War. In November, 1946 King George VI decreed that in recognition of its services the corps should have the distinction of "Royal" added to its title. No other corps or regiment has received that honour so quickly.

Views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

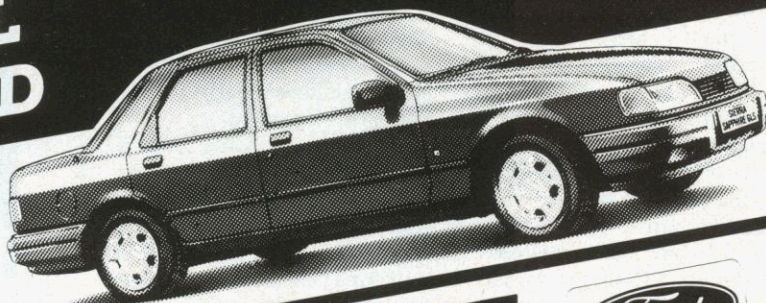
Calling gunner families . . .

Anyone who lost a husband, father or brother during that period and wishes to attend the ceremony at the Garrison Church, Larkhill, is asked to contact RHQ at Government House, Woolwich, London SE18 6XR or telephone 01-854 2242 extension 3710.

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Dukes have been there, seen it and done it!

THE 800 men of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment exchanged the green of the Shropshire countryside for the arid Alberta Plain in Canada for seven weeks.

The Dukes were at Wainwright for the culmination to their annual training programme. Wainwright is a small hamlet 200km east of Edmonton where apart from the training area and miles of corn fields there is a little else.

But although Wainwright training area is the poor relation of BATUS in terms of funding, it offers excellent and realistic ranges and the Dukes could live fire without the restrictions found in the UK.

Wainwright is famous for the buffalo park that surrounds the perimeter of the camp and, if nothing else, provides excellent security for the inhabitants.

The 1 DWR training package included the regulation mix of hard military training and the lighter side of adventure training. It was basically a four phase training cycle consisting of platoon and company live firing in all aspects of war leading up to a full scale battalion exercise with supporting arms, culminating in a 72 hour inter-platoon competition testing individual and tactical skills to the full.

To carry out this package the Dukes had with them 170 (Imjin) Battery from 45 Fd Regiment RA, a troop from 22 Engineer Regiment and a flight from 656 Squadron, AAC. To make up the correct number of infantry they also took with them elements from the

Yorkshires and the UDR.

The beauty of Wainwright is the vastness of the ranges. This takes time to get used to as Cpl Graham Sommersgill pointed out after completing his attack.

"The size of the area makes control that much more difficult. Whereas in England you are used to being able to see your complete section, you are unable to here.

"Also the objectives are far larger and much deeper," he explained.

Wainwright lends itself to flexibility. Throughout the 60 square miles of training area there are many changes in ground and vegetation as well as lakes. It was one of these - Border Lake - that Corruna Company used as the setting for their company river crossing and attack, 90 men fording the lake in 11 assault boats (paddle powered) before launching into a slick and determined attack on a 1km deep objective.

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment also completed an adventure training package in Jasper National Park in the Rocky Mountains.

As well as providing some of the most spectacular countryside in the world it also offers excellent adventure training facilities, whether it is a 105km cycle marathon, riding horses along a mountain trail, rock climbing, white water canoeing, rafting, sailboarding or water skiing.

To round off their six week training there was still the opportunity for some well earned R and R to Vancouver, Edmonton or the United States. When the Dukes returned to Tern Hill they could honestly say - been there, seen it, done it!



Left - Pte Arthur Walford used to work for a fencing company. There wasn't much of that to hold him back at Wainwright

Above - Adventure training included canoeing on the Athabasca River, the icy waters of which come direct from a glacier

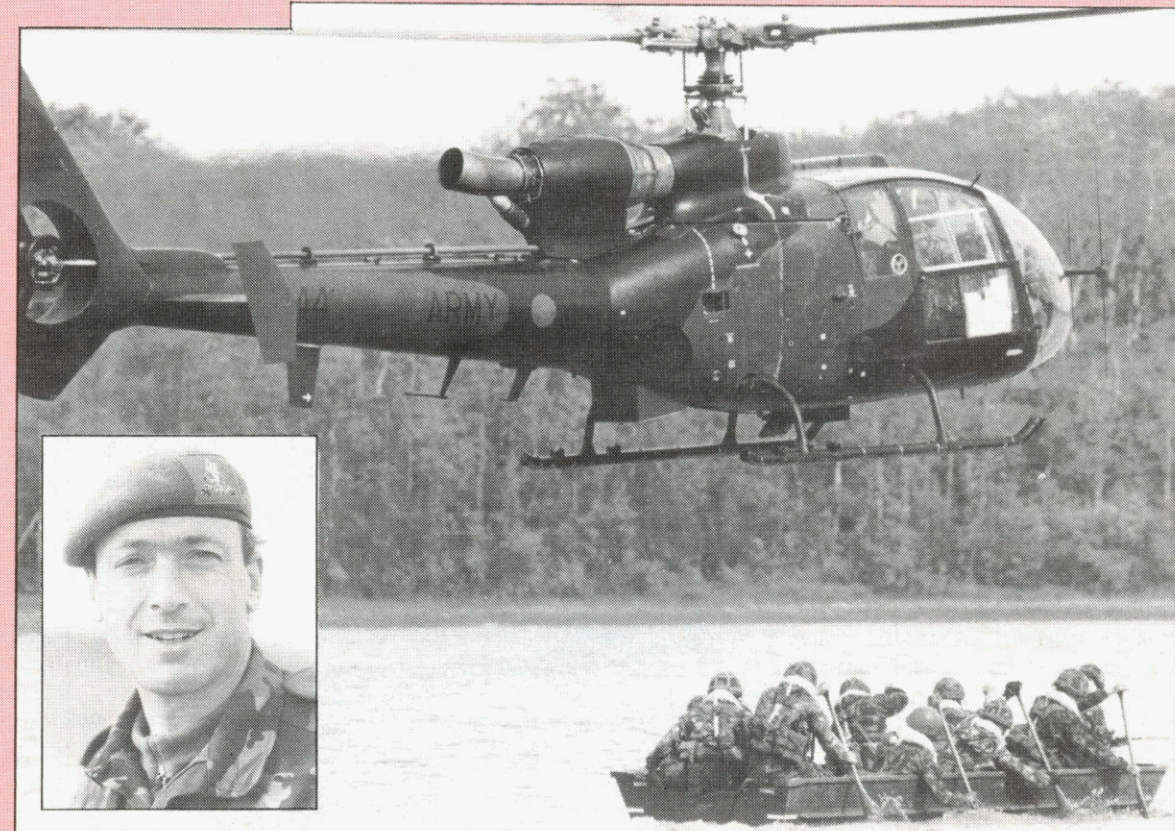
Above right - Sgt Mark Kennedy is responsible for the collection, collation and interpretation of intelligence on the enemy

Right - A detachment of four from 158 Provost Company RMP at Bulford, Wilts accompanied the battle group to Wainwright. From left are Sgt Shaun Beresford, Cpl Keith Brazier, a Canadian military policeman, Cpl Seamus Oxley and LCpl David Farnham

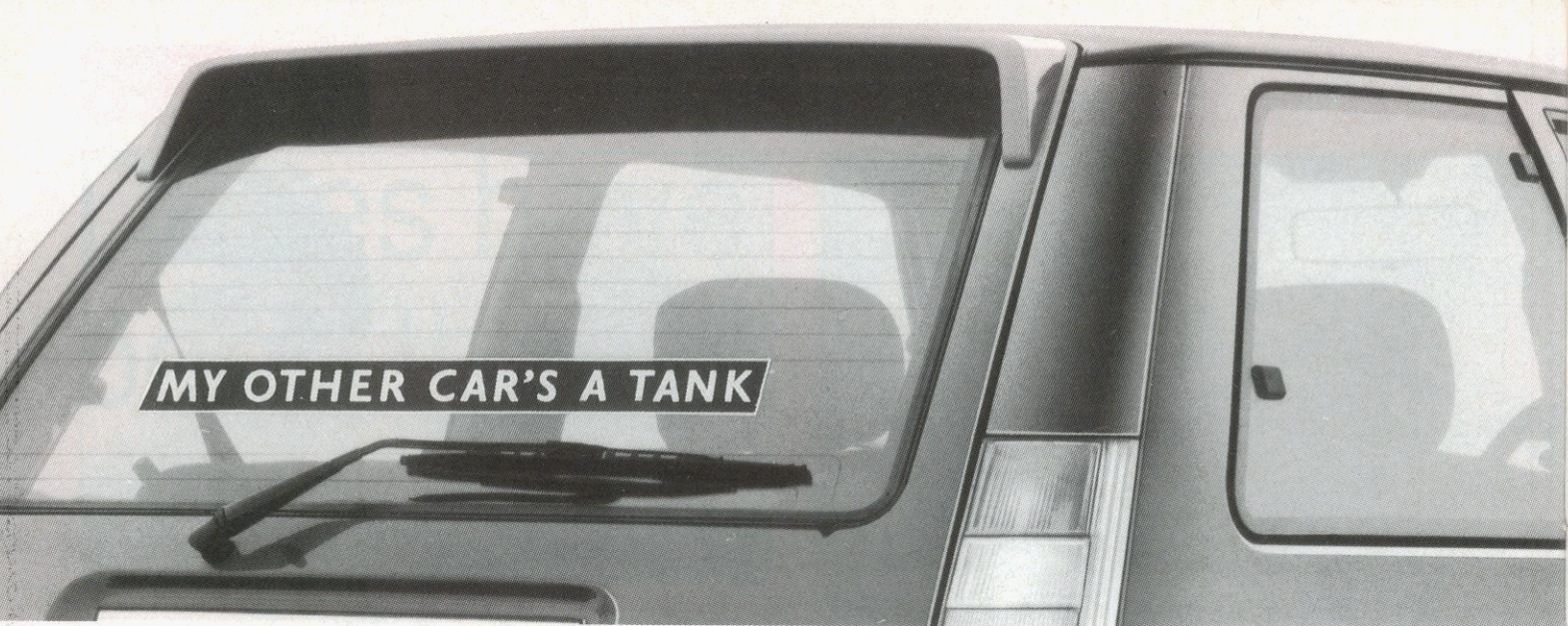
Below right - A Gazelle helicopter supports a beach landing at Border Lake, Wainwright

Below left - About to cycle 70 miles through the Rocky Mountains are (from left) Pte John Magee, Pte Brian Adamson, Pte John Nellist, Cpl Barry Roberts, Sgt Lee Greenwood and Pte James Jenkins

Inset below - Lt Col Andrew Meek, CO of 1 DWR



Words: Capt Jonathon Polin
Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson



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Words: Bill Moore
Pictures: Mike Perring

POLAR BEAR



Pte Ivan Darker, finger on trigger, and LCpl Karl Brecker, of 7 R Anglian use the GPMG in the SF role. More pictures on pages 18-19

TA Forty-niners strike it rough



IT WAS a case of now you see 'em, now you don't as 49 Infantry Brigade fought its way over Salisbury Plain.

For once the weather did not interfere with flying operations and around 3,000 Territorial soldiers were airlifted into battle in Pumas and Chinooks from RAF Odiham during two weeks of training and exercise.

Exercise Polar Bear was the biggest TA exercise to take place in the UK this year – and looked it.

Towards the end, after days of working up, a series of heliborne assaults were made on positions on the Plain.

By then many of the troops were weary but anyone who saw them doubling over the downland with Milan, or manpacking machine-guns or dashing forward by sections could only admire their spirit –

and physical fitness. The infantry, drawn mainly from the Midlands, showed the quality for which the animal chosen as their formation sign is famous – stamina.

A group of visiting businessmen who had released men for the exercise must have been surprised to see their employees pitted against crack Regular soldiers from the Royal Highland Fusiliers and The Parachute Regiment.

They may have been even more surprised to see them working with 60-ton Chieftain tanks (supplied to both sides by the Royal Hussars at Tidworth).

And to watch Lynx and American A-10 aircraft roar overhead in support.

The brigade regards itself as the successor to the hard-fighting 49th Division which distinguished itself in both world wars and adopted the Polar Bear

flash in the Second after service in Iceland. The Germans were said to have called them the “Butcher” Bear after savage encounters in Normandy.

One of only two “all arms” brigades in the TA, it has its own recce regiment, gunners, sappers, signals and supporting units.

“As part of 2 Infantry Division we deploy in the 1 (BR) Corps order of battle,” said Maj Bede Grossmith RE, chief of staff.

Paying tribute to the “commitment and enthusiasm” of the volunteer soldiers, he added:

“To make the TA work we have got to guarantee interesting, challenging and very active training.”

The staff of 49 Brigade can rest assured that on Polar Bear they did just that.

Right - Pte Ken Mackenzie of B Coy 5 LI leaps into action

POLAR BEAR

A Chinook of 7 Sqn RAF "sits up and begs" as troops go aboard. The position is taken up for technical reasons to do with wind direction



Above - Lt Troy Quin (second from left) on attachment from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment with men of 2 Para who played part of the enemy

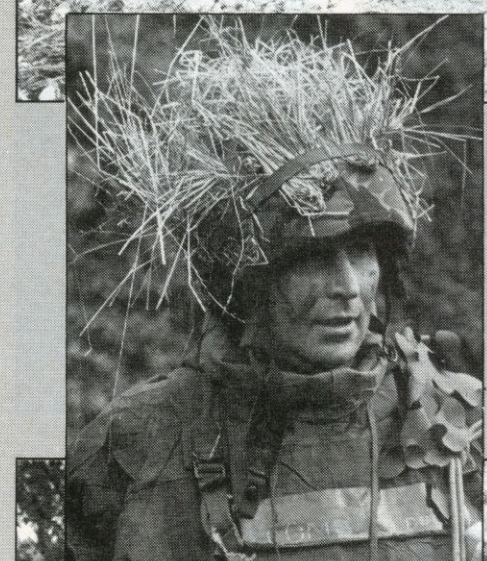
Left - Brig Simon Firth, Comd 49 Bde

Right - A wartime picture of typical infantry in action in Normandy 1944 where '49 Div' won fame

Below - Australian "Terrier" Lt Alan Donovan, 8th/7th Royal Victorian Regiment, attached to 9 Pl C Coy 3 Staffords from Burton on Trent

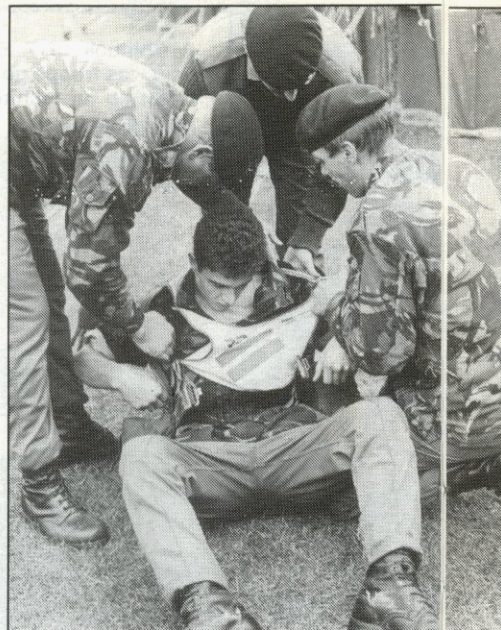


NORMANDY '44



Above - Some do not like it hot. Men of 3 Staffords move up

Left - "Prepare to move". Troops ready for action on the Plain



The long, long trail

Man in a hurry (far left) Pte John Hiles (on right of picture) passing the 90-mile marker with a Victory sign . . . ten miles on he was able to halt, sit down, and let his comrades carry him to the first aid tent where he told SOLDIER, as medics removed his boots: "If you're looking for blisters you won't find 'em."

To mark Pte Hiles's achievement SOLDIER will be presenting him with a colour print of the magic moment he crossed the line

Pictures: Mike Weston

Odd man out

John marches 100 miles in 24 hours

TEN four-man teams from the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry set out on Exercise Yorkshire Canter. Plus one odd man out.

Pte John Hiles, a 20-year-old ex Junior Leader from Rotherham, Yorks, said he'd rather march alone in an attempt to cover 100 miles in 24 hours, writes Bill Moore.

And, with the exception of route safety men, he made the trip solo until he was about ten miles from the little camp set up on the playing fields of the Royal Naval Air Station, Yeovilton, Somerset.

At the 80-mile mark, with four hours still to go, it had looked highly unlikely that he was going to make it even though he was ahead of the field.

But as he kept up a cracking pace, bent forward under 25lb of webbing and waterbottles, and carrying his SA 80 (another 9lb), people began to sense victory.

Certainly Pte Hiles had no doubts. He gave a splendid Churchillian V sign to SOLDIER's photographer who was "advancing backwards" in order to get his shot and had to leap out of the way, such was the marching speed.

For the last lap everyone had to trot to keep up, including Brig Jack Deverell, Commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade 20



Lt Mark Moffat after 80 miles

(another Light Infantryman) and Lt Col Richard Cousens, CO 2 LI.

With about 100 yards to go Pte Hiles broke into a gallop, not a canter, and crossed the finishing line amid cheers with a time of 23 hours and 53 minutes.

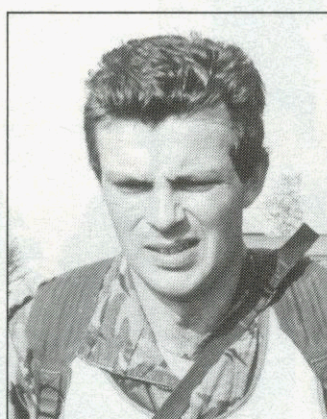
Then he allowed himself to be carried to the medical tent for an obligatory check up.

"If you are looking for blisters, you won't find them," he said as his boots came off and the medics peeled off the binding. And there were only a few tiny ones.

"He must be a very fit young man," said Lt Col Michael Reilly, RAMC, regimental medical officer of 2 LI.

"What was the worst bit?" someone asked Pte Hiles.

"Between 2 and 4am," he



Lt Phil Butcher at 90 miles

replied. "I kept on thinking I ought to be in bed."

What training had he done? "A couple of 25 milers and a 50."

It is the third successive year in which the endurance test has been held.

Only two other members of the battalion have cracked the 100-mile in 24 hours target - Lt Richard Fullerton and Sgt "Coco" Corcoran made it in 23 hours 43 minutes at Sennelager, West Germany last year.

Pte Hiles's name will join theirs on the silver trophy as will the names of all those who covered 80 or more miles in the 24 hours.

They were Lt Phil Butcher (90), Lt Mark Moffat, Lt Johnny Bowron, Sgt Graham Wood, LCpl Mac McBurnie, Pte Steven Corsie and Buglers Barry Dixon

and Andy Thatcher.

The 24-hour test originated in a discussion about the marching qualities of the British infantry in the Second World War.

Retired Maj Andrew Rutherford, who had served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (which amalgamated in 1968 with the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and the Durham Light Infantry), donated a silver bowl to be engraved with the names of all soldiers who achieved a distance of 80 or more miles in the time.

Benefiting from previous experience most marchers bound their feet with bandages and wore boots two sizes bigger than normal. In all cases they wore boots combat high, about which there were no complaints.

Army Catering Corps cooks Cpl "Stress" Horner and Pte Mark Morley worked throughout the night to provide meals for the marchers, mainly soft, easily consumed foods such as lasagne and spaghetti bolognese. But one team at least had roast turkey, peas and potatoes en route.

The amazing Pte Hiles also took time off to have a half of bitter in a pub after he had consumed the contents of his waterbottles!



Last lap . . .

They called the 100-mile challenge the Yorkshire Canter and that was how the man who made it finished - cantering over the last 100 yards

Epic trek to Delhi

ONE of the toughest marches ever made was from the North West Frontier to Delhi on the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny.

Gen Sir Henry Dermot Daly, then a young officer, wrote: "The Guides (Queen's Own Corps of Guides) . . . started six hours after receipt of orders, fully equipped for service, and marched 580 miles - fifty marches in twenty-two days with three halts by order."

"Three hours after their arrival at Delhi they were engaged hand to hand with the enemy and every . . . British officer was more or less wounded."

The march took place at the hottest

. . . and straight into battle . . .

time of the year. Men died of heat stroke and cholera on the way.

During the retreat from Mons in 1914 Regular infantry regiments which included many reservists with new boots, marched and fought for days on end.

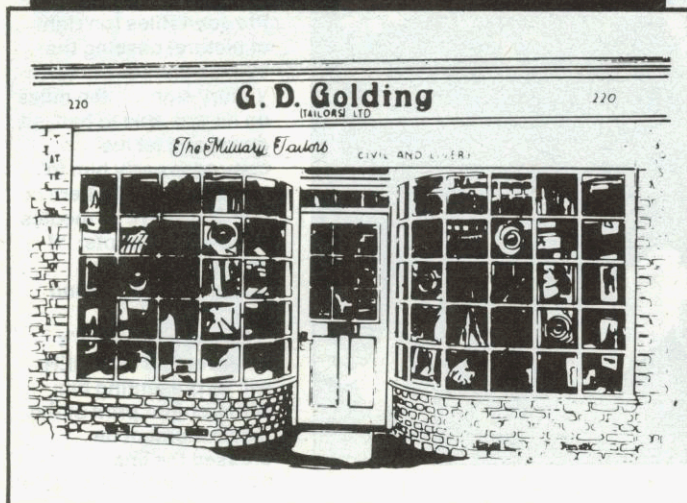
The 1st Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry estimated they had covered 240 miles in 14 days. It was August and they were wearing khaki serge and carrying 60lbs of equipment.



Brig Jack Deverell, Comd 1 Bde, holding the silver trophy on which the names of Lt Butcher (left) and Pte Hiles will be engraved. Everyone who achieves a distance of 80 miles is recorded on the plinth

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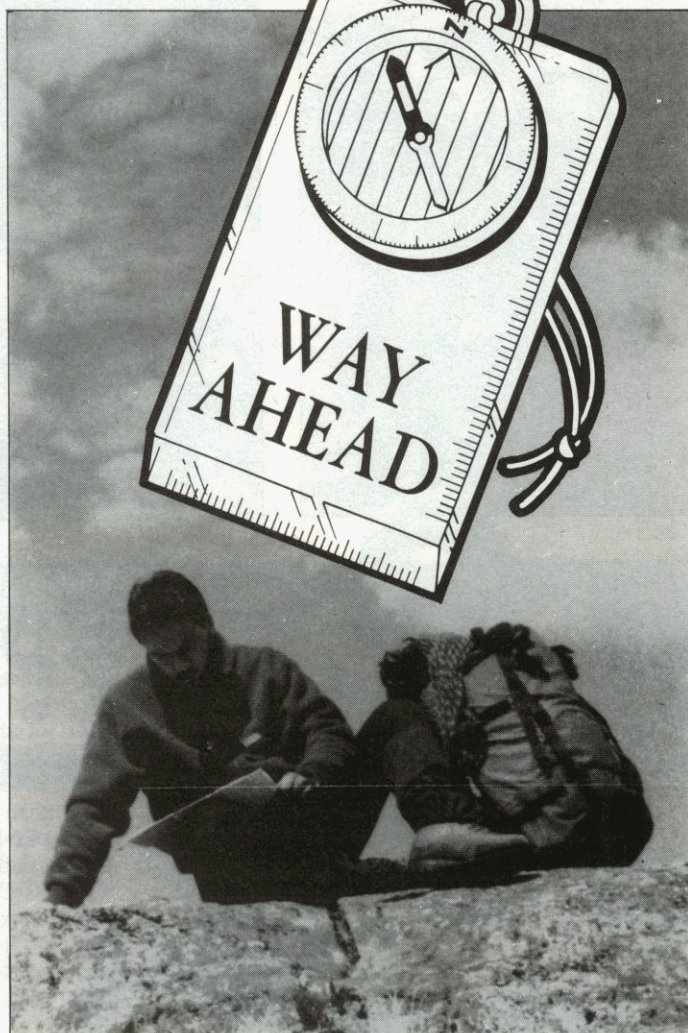
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ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT OUTDOORS

Words:
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike Weston

Plain Sailing



Sgt Ian Cameron gives a route briefing before the convoy moves off from Zeebrugge

This 'tour' went like clockwork

THE commanding officer of an RCT TA regiment who just happens to be a specialist tour operator in civilian life applied all his skills of ensuring clients arrive safely and on time at their holiday destinations to the smooth running of Exercise Plain Sailing.

Lt Col John Astbury, of 160 Transport Regiment, who was a Regular RCT officer for 12 years, specialises in Mediterranean villa holidays.

Plain Sailing was the largest reinforcement exercise from the UK since Lionheart in 1984. It was designed to test and rehearse communications and staff procedures for the reinforcement of BAOR and involved 13,500 troops, both Regular and Territorials, passing through the Low Countries to West Germany.

Aim was to exercise the use



Lt Col John Astbury

of the Rear Combat Zone in its job of supplying and replenishing 1 (BR) Corps with ammunition and other requirements. It followed another exercise, Packsaddle, in which simulated ammunition was

taken from the rear into the Corps supply area – testing how well men and vehicles could cope under pressure.

Col Astbury's job was to ensure the movement of his 400 men from their homes all over the UK to BAOR via the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks at Grantham, home of HQ RCT TA and Depot RCT TA. It was the focal point for assembling and moving on the part time soldiers.

Administration was carried out by the Depot. Soldiers collected kit, vehicles and equipment for the field, and drew personal weapons. They crossed the Channel by air and sea, and, on landing, some went through a repeat performance of picking up vehicles before assembling at mobilisation locations to report to their operational commanders that

they were ready for tasking.

Col Astbury said his expertise in arranging holidays complemented the detailed work in a movements exercise.

"The volume of people does not matter, the principle is the same. Holidaymakers and soldiers going on exercise have the same requirements – they do not like to be kept waiting at airports and they like to be looked after.

"It is a double edged benefit to me because I am able to apply my travel skills to my TA activities and vice versa."

The RCT TA is made up of independent and specialist units. Independents recruit mainly from untrained sources, but specialists, such as 160 Transport Regiment, have to have the appropriate qualification. That means an HGV

● Turn to next page

COMBAT STRESS

'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner

Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G't't'e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

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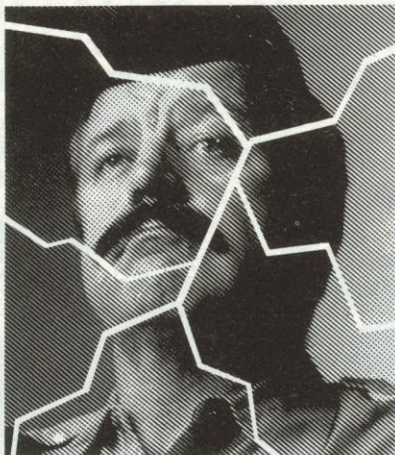
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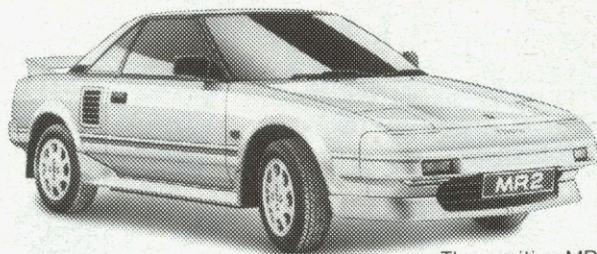
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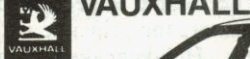
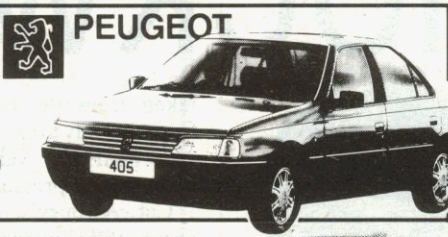
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I have a for part exchange



Col George Vaughan, Chief of Staff HQ RCT TA and chief umpire on exercise



Cpl Tom Wilson (left) notes fuel reserves at Felixstowe with LCpl Peter Long. Cpl Wilson was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his bravery in saving the lives of passengers on the *Herald of Free Enterprise* at Zeebrugge

Plain Sailing

'Ammunition' on the move

● From Page 23

licence or a rail operator or port qualification.

The RCT TA's role in BAOR was to move ammunition (all types other than small arms) and other requirements from depots and leave it at various locations.

Statistics illustrate the enormity of the task – 7,500 tons of simulated ammunition and 3,500 tons of engineer stores carried over journeys of up to five hours.

Col Astbury added: "Perhaps the greatest compliment we had came from the grass roots Regulars we were serving alongside. They said that the squadrons in my regiment would be fully accepted as part of a Regular field force unit in Germany.

"We arrived on time, we completed the task we were set and we all returned home safely. I could not ask any more. They were magnificent."

Col George Vaughan, Chief of Staff HQ RCT TA and chief umpire for part of the exercise, said: "The sheer tonnage speaks for itself with its potential for many logistical problems. But it was well tackled in a very professional manner with minimal vehicle breakdowns and road accidents.

"Then they had to reverse the whole process and travel back home. Everyone got back to Grantham tired but with a feeling of achievement."

And the lessons learned? One



Dvr Michael Campbell finds necessity is the mother of invention and utilises the broad shoulders of Dvr Gordon Duffy to fill in a weapons check list at Grantham

of the aims of Plain Sailing was to test new ideas for replenishment in the future. A weakness was found in the TA's understanding of the system.

Col Vaughan said: "Now this has been identified – and that is the whole point of an exercise – it can be corrected. Otherwise the criticisms were too minor to mention. Overall, Plain Sailing was an unmitigated success and fully lived up to its name."

Sailing from Felixstowe to

Zeebrugge revived painful memories for Cpl Tom Wilson who has been a member of 263 Squadron, 160 Transport Regiment for about nine years.

He was serving on the *Herald of Free Enterprise* at the time of the disaster and his bravery in saving the lives of numerous passengers – he has no idea how many – earned him the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

With other members of the crew he smashed a window as

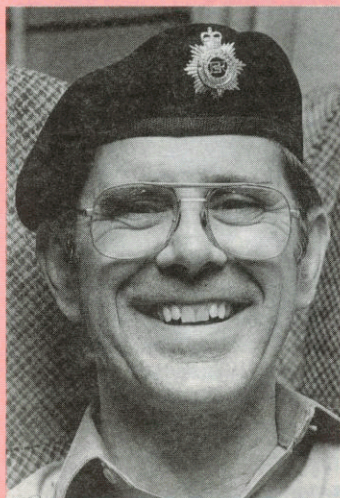
the ship lay on its side, put a ladder into the lounge area, clambered in and got people on to the ladder and safety.

After the disaster he suffered depression and decided to change jobs. He is now a long distance lorry driver. He knew all of the crew who died.

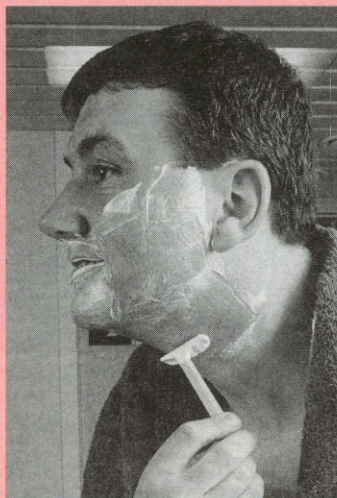
Tom was one of the last people to leave the ship and was inadvertently listed as missing.

"Because of the long in-

● Turn to next page



Sgt Terry Trevelyan received his BEM in the field



Dvr James Kyle, who tried to get away with it, but didn't!

How Dvr James learned not to cut corners

● From Page 25

quiries it was 18 hours later that I rang my family. They were just overjoyed that I was alive."

Soldiers on Plain Sailing started to embark early for the 11pm sailing, and after a meal soon crashed out with an early start looming. It was a calm crossing and there were no reports of seasickness.

TA units inevitably have a wealth of characters, some of whom surfaced on Plain Sailing. WO1 Bob Place, of 160 Transport Regiment Workshop REME (V) was a Regular until 1984 before joining the Sultan of Oman's Land Force for three years. He is now a child care officer in Guernsey.

In 1982 he was awarded the MBE for his work in Nepal, where leg amputation is commonplace. Mr Place made plaster casts of what was left of the limb and prepared drawings so his workshop could make up artificial limbs.

The long memory of a sergeant major made Dvr James Kyle, a painter and decorator in civilian life,

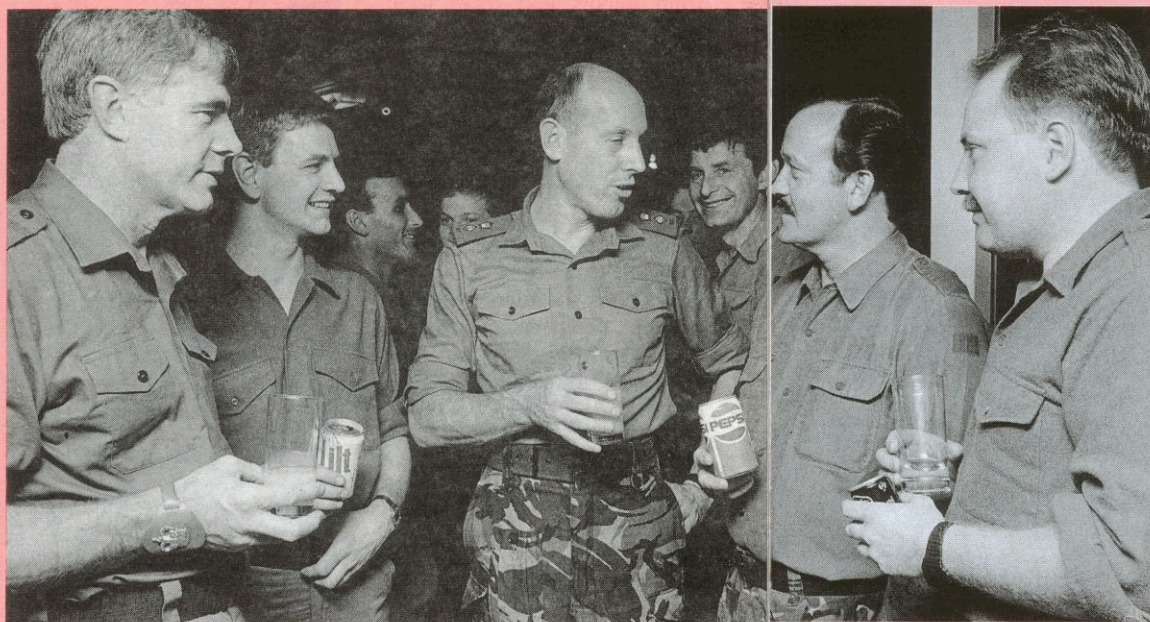
determined not to cut corners again. On a previous exercise he had gone on guard duty without shaving.

But the same sergeant major was on the ship crossing the Channel and, on spotting Dvr Kyle, gave him an extra duty.

Dvr Kyle said: "Everyone tries to get away with something, but it catches up with you in the end."

Plain Sailing will always have a special place in the memory of Sgt Terry Trevelyan, who was in the Army Catering Corps for 12 years before he joined the RCT TA.

In the Birthday Honours he was awarded the BEM and, unusually, it was decided he should receive it in the field. Permission was given by the British Ambassador for the ceremony to go ahead and the presentation was made by an honorary colonel of the regiment, Col Rupert Wallis. Terry's wife, Sandra, and brother-in-law, Malcolm Hayles, a staff sergeant with the REME at Sennelager, were there.



Above - Soft drinks only on the Channel crossing for (from the left): WO2 (SSM) Graham Sluman, Cfn Paul Gladman, Lt Col John Astbury, Cpl Tony Williams and Dvr Graham Stirrop. Above centre - A cabin was taken over as the armoury for the Channel crossing. LCpl Clive Midgely (standing), Lt James MacPherson (centre) and LCpl Graham Dring do a check

A costly business for some volunteers

LT COL John Astbury, CO of 160 Transport Regiment, RCT TA, is concerned that a growing number of volunteer soldiers are suffering financially.

In some cases his soldiers have to take unpaid leave and Army pay does not fully cover the loss of earnings. This despite an intensive, multi million pound Government campaign aimed at making



Wagons roll! But this time not under their own steam as the RCT TA go to sea. They drove from Grantham to Felixstowe where they boarded a cross Channel ferry. After disembarkation they crossed the Lowlands to BAOR

employers more sympathetic to the TA.

Col Astbury said that while the bosses of some large organisations warmed to the idea, the feeling did not always percolate to middle management, who made it difficult for staff to get time off work.

"Like the Army, firms are suffering from a shortage of suitable labour and some middle management simply

won't allow efficiency to suffer because of a TA commitment."

He said the problem was exacerbated because today's younger bosses had no military links, such as National Service.

"Recruits when we do get them are of a very high quality because of the qualifications we demand. That means they are very employable and in great demand in civvy street."

"Specialist units have a

minimum commitment of 19 days a year. The reality is many more days of training, almost to the point of being overstretched. The independent units have a permanent staff to help run them, the specialists do not. We are especially lucky at Grantham because of the help given to us by Depot RCT TA. Hopefully, the future will bring us computers and some permanent staff back-up."



A clang of steel helmets distributed at Grantham by Cpl Stuart Marshall

Trapeze artist in the swing of it!

EXERCISE Plain Sailing featured 13,500 troops, including a 2,000 strong contingent of Ulster Territorials.

The units represented were 102 (Ulster) Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (Volunteers); 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers); the 4th and 5th (Volunteer) Battalions, The Royal Irish Rangers; 253 (Northern Ireland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers); and a detachment of 23 Security Company (Volunteers).

The Regular 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Irish Rangers are already serving in West Germany and during the short run of Plain Sailing all four battalions were in BAOR at the same time.

Taking part in the exercise was one of the Territorial Army's most unusual soldiers – 21-year-old Oakley Turvey, a

circus trapeze artist, aerial acrobat and male model. He is turning his back on show business to concentrate on training and hopes to get a Regular commission.

He is in the Royal Military Police TA working from the Tulse Hill Depot, London and on the exercise was in northern Belgium helping supervise troop and vehicle movements. Oakley is known as Topsy Turvey to his military friends after frequently demonstrating his acrobatic skills by hanging by his heels from doors or walking on his hands.

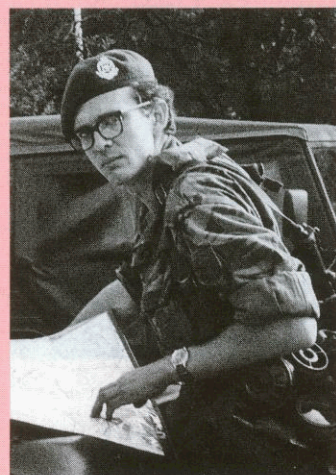
Oakley, who models bathing costumes, said: "My acrobatic training was tough, but it helps me enormously with the military life I have come to love through the TA. Of course I get a lot of ribbing, but it's all good natured fun." He has been selected for a Regular officers' course.

One of the newer units on Plain Sailing was 171 Vehicle Platoon, RAOC (V). They formed in 1986 as part of the Continental TA, recruiting from British nationals living in BAOR.

Meanwhile, soldiers were supported by members of the Expeditionary Forces Institutes (EFI), Naafi's uniformed branch and part of the RAOC. In Belgium and Germany they set up and ran a shop and bulk issue service in the field.

The British officer responsible for all troop and vehicle movements through the Belgian ports, was Lt Col John Lee, RCT, who is Road Safety Officer for the British Forces in Germany.

He said: "I was expecting problems, but there have been none. We have liaised closely with the Belgian authorities and I am delighted with the way things have gone."

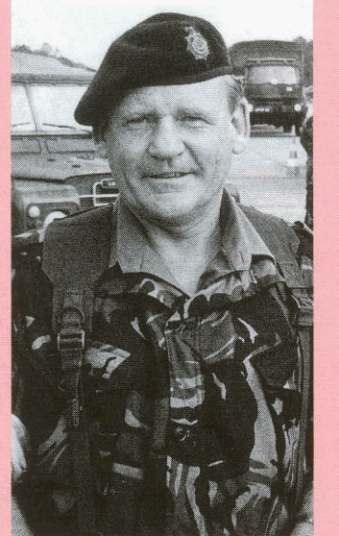


Pte Oakley Turvey, a circus trapeze artist, aerial acrobat and male model already serving with the RMP TA, wants to turn his back on showbusiness and get a commission in the Regular Army. On Plain Sailing, he helped supervise British troops and vehicle movements



The slight 4ft 11in, seven stone figure of Pte Joanne Wall meant she was never short of "minders" such as (from the left) Cpl Terry McCabe, Cpl Bobby Crawford and Cpl Bobby Longworth

Above – Guarding the unit bulk replenishment equipment on the quayside at Felixstowe are Pte Barrie Hallam (left) and Cpl Tony Williams



Lt Col John Lee



Above – Lt Col Frank Renton, Assistant Inspector of Army Bands, meets flautist Cpl Peter McIlreavy on the parade ground

Hoping for the best

Right – Hoping for the best – and giving it their best are clarinet players (from the left) WO2 (BSM) Alan Baggaley, LCpl Gordon Fulton and LCpl Andy Cooper

Story: Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures: Mike Weston



Dixie sound

The Dixie Band has been a big hit. Pictured (from the left) are BdsM Stephen Hoy, percussion, BdsM Christopher Betts, accordion, and Cpl Peter McIlreavy, banjo



Children of the regiment maintain the traditions of Irish dancing. Putting their best foot forward are (from the left) Kelly McNicholas, Samantha Anderson, Jennifer Baggaley and Cassie Wilson

SOUNDS IRISH

MONTHS of behind the scenes preparation culminated in the quinquennial inspection of the Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers (27th (Inniskilling), 83rd and 87th). Now, there is only the awaiting of the grading – excellent, very good or good.

The inspecting officers were the Inspector of Army Bands, Col David Lewis, WG; the Commandant of the Royal Military School of Music; and the Assistant Inspector, Lt Col

Frank Renton, RA, Director of Music and chief instructor of the School.

The inspection at Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück, was a more optimistic event than the last one five years ago in Chester. On that occasion it rained persistently. This time the inspection got off to a bright, frosty and sunny start.

Col Lewis inspected ceremonial aspects – uniform and drill – while musical matters came under Col Renton's scrutiny during a parade and marching display which included the Pipers, Buglers and Drums.

Then it was off to a nearby concert hall to test the Band's overall musical ability. Bandmaster WO1 Dave Clarke, chose *Pineapple Poll* by Arthur Sullivan arranged by Mackerras to demonstrate how good they were at playing a major work.

Band Sgt Maj Alan Baggaley showed how easily he could slip into the bandmaster's role at short notice with Hamish MacCunn's *Mountain of the Flood*, chosen only that morning by the Director.

A series of other tests were concluded with a rendering of *Killaloe*, the regimental march, and the National Anthem. Next part of the programme showed the Band's entertainment capability with the Dixie, dance and

brass groups and the woodwind quartet doing their stuff.

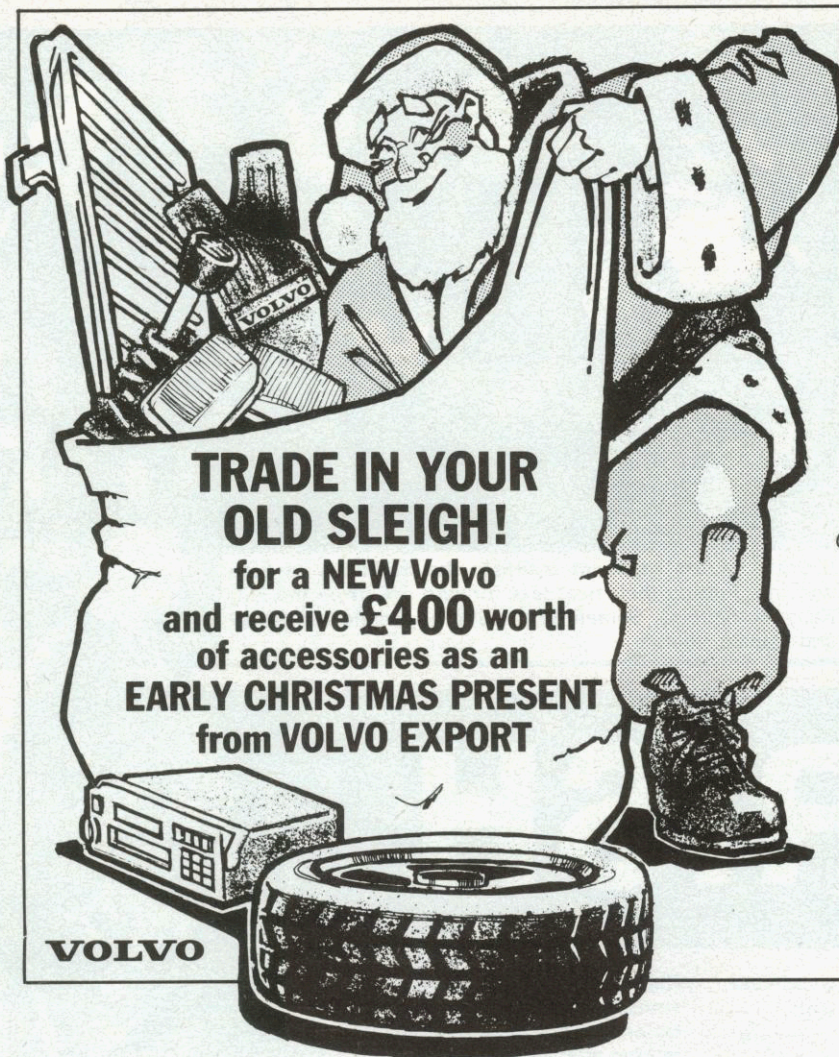
To finish off the entertainment children of the regiment, accompanied by the Pipes and Drums, demonstrated traditional Irish dancing. Their coach is Mrs Lizzie Chambers, wife of Sgt Brian Chambers, a bass player.

Band Master Clarke said the grading decision was eagerly awaited: "I was very pleased with their performance. They put in 100 per cent effort."

Right – The inspection had a special poignancy for Pipe Major Jack Oakes who is retiring after 25 years in the Army. His successor is Sgt Donald Macleod

Below – The musicians come under close scrutiny from (from left) Col David Lewis, Inspector of Army Bands; Lt Col Frank Renton, Assistant Inspector; and Maj Rodney Parker, Director of Music BAOR





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Rafting on the Indus are Sheffield UOTC adventurers Chantal Simmonds, Millie Johns, Justin Havens, Gary Walker and Andy Smith



LCpl Richard McPherson (left) and Spr Simon Coldwell tap up Lt Col Brian Isbell, CO 35 Engr Regt, for BFT sponsorship

Battle fit sappers



complete 25 BFTs

TWO weary sappers completed 25 battle fitness tests (equivalent to 75 miles) in 24 hours and all in the cause of charity!

LCpl Richard McPherson and Spr Simon Coldwell of Hameln based 37 Field Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment raised more than £2,000 for the garrison medical centre through their efforts.

★ ★ ★
Members of 88 (Arracan) Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment RA have collected a substantial sum for the family of Cpl Steve Smith, 1 RTR, who was killed by a terrorist car bomb in Hanover, West Germany last July. The men pulled a 25 pdr gun the 200km from Hildesheim to Osna-brück.

★ ★ ★
Army chefs from Princess Marina College, Aborfield raised more than £700 for the Hillsborough Disaster Fund during a charity football match against apprentices and instructors. The college also sponsored ex PTI Mr Terry Broomfield during his run in the London Marathon.

★ ★ ★
Tidworth Car Club instigated a draw for a fully-restored 1970 Morris Minor 1000 and raised more than £5,000 towards sending a five-year-old Army child afflicted by cerebral palsy to Hungary for treatment at the famous Peto Andras State Institute.

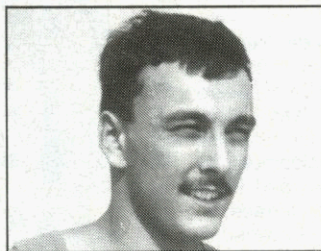
Little Jodie Godwin, the daughter of Tidworth based WO David Godwin, and her



WO2 (SSM) Blackie Widdows puts his latest recruits through their paces. The seven underprivileged youngsters from London were given a ten day holiday as guests of the Permanent Staff of the Junior Leaders Regiment RCT/RAOC at Colerne, Wilts. Their Army vacation came about through a liaison between the soldiers of 90 (JL) Sqn RCT and the Children's Holiday Fund charity

mother Gaynor will live for two years in Budapest where she has been accepted for assessment by the institute.

★ ★ ★
Save The Children benefited when a team of soldiers from 97 Field Battery (Lawson's Battery) RA, attached to 4 RTR serving with the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP) ran the entire length of the UN Buffer Zone and then back into Dhekelia, a distance of more than 200 miles.



Cfn Jeyasingham during the 97 Fd Bty UN Buffer Zone run

★ ★ ★
The Down's Syndrome Society and the NSPCC shared the £1,500 raised by the Nearly

Dangerous Sports Club RE. Formed by the WOs and Sgts Mess of 1 and 3 Training Regiments RE based at Minley, Hants, the men organised a sponsored cycle ride of 45 miles from the mess to Portsmouth.

★ ★ ★
More Servicemen got on their bikes when members of the Joint Helicopter Support Unit (Germany) completed a 600 mile ride from their Gütersloh base to Newport in Gwent in aid of the St David's Foundation. They raised £600 for the Welsh charity.

★ ★ ★
Members of the United Kingdom Delegation and Support Unit at HQ AFCENT raised £4,000 towards a foetal monitoring system.

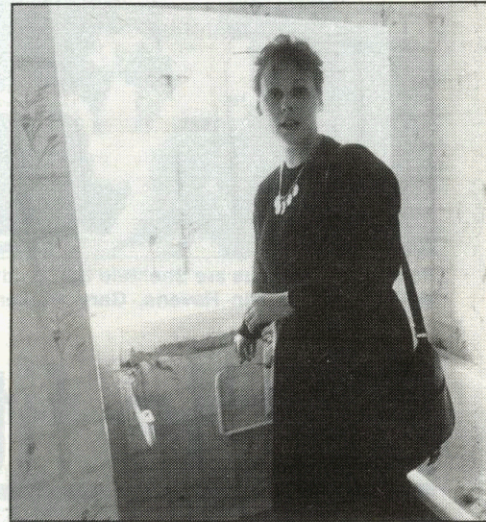
★ ★ ★
Combining compassion with scientific research in India were five members from Sheffield University OTC.

2nd Lts Justin Havens and Gary Walker and OCdts Andy Smith, Chantal Simmonds and Millie Johns carried out high altitude trekking as well as some low key scientific work.

During their trip they presented a cheque for £1,000, raised in England, to a Save The Children Fund centre in Northern India.

The wreck of Chetwode Terrace is up for grabs

GOING . . . GOING . . .



ARMED Forces Ministers come and go, housing issues are raised regularly in the Defence debates in Parliament, generals ask questions . . . but all seem powerless to find a solution to the needs of today's soldier.

The resulting dissatisfaction is one of the major factors behind the increasing numbers leaving the Services.

The Treasury dictates a system which bulldozes its way through all argument on the grounds that it has to safeguard the public purse.

Single aim of the scheme seems to be to ensure the Treasury receives the maximum amount possible from the sale of surplus MQs to replenish its purse and balance MoD outgoings.

One major reason given why MQs are not offered to the Serviceman is that the utilities are connected to the MoD supply. This is why so few have been sold under the Joint Services MQ Discounted Scheme.

Yet Servicemen were led to believe the majority of MQs would be sold to them.

Of the 8,000 sold so far only 2,000 have gone to the Serviceman who has had to stand by and watch MQs being sold to individual civilians, whole estates being bought by developers who have then sold them on at prices far beyond the soldier's pocket or, worse still, MQs being refurbished and leased back to the local authorities.

Karen Parris, who dreamt up a rescue scheme, examines the properties on sale and discovers (left and right) that thieves have ripped out a water tank and washbasin in one house. All the windows have been smashed in the house pictured above *Pictures by Terry Champion*

That happened in the case of 274 naval properties bought by City Homes (UK) Ltd.

Why could not these properties be leased back to one of the Service charities – the British Legion, Earl Haig Memorial Homes or even a Services Housing Association?

Karen Parris, wife of a serving soldier, has seen a viable scheme for Chetwode Terrace, Aldershot bite the dust.

She wasn't given a chance and the site, now vandalised, is to be sold to a developer.

Under Karen's scheme the houses would have remained within the reach of soldiers.

Who can believe it when there are 200 homeless Service personnel in the SE District area and more in London District facing bed and breakfast or sub-standard accommodation.

Chetwode Terrace has been advertised as a parcel of 22 houses on 2.5 acres of land to be sold freehold for refurbishment and development by Pilgrim Miller and Partners.

The 22 terrace houses could be converted into 34 units for civilian purchase, says the brochure.

The 16 semi-detached houses, Nos 33 to 48, will be sold under the discounted scheme forecast to appear in the April 1990 Bulletin.

It will be interesting to compare the market and discounted values because these once habitable houses are now badly damaged.

To put them back into an acceptable state will cost between £10,000 and £15,000 – maybe more. Who will pay?

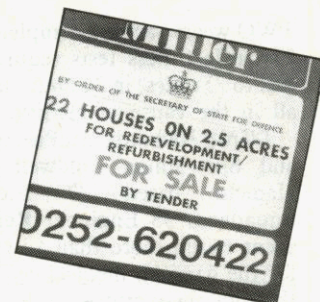
The purchaser of the site has six months from completion of the sale to ensure that Nos 33 to 48 have water mains and stop cocks, to install electricity and make up the road to the required Local Authority standard.

Rushmoor Borough Council has asked City Homes (UK) Ltd to bid for the properties then lease them back to the council, who in turn will house homeless families.

Why can't the Services do the same? We have Service charities, the British Legion, Earl Haig Memorial Homes, why not a Service housing association?

By selling MQs on the open market the Treasury saves the 30 per cent discount and raises the maximum profit.

But the subsequent cost



to the nation in terms of disillusioned soldiers appears to be an expensive way of replenishing Treasury coffers.

It seems the Serviceman is the pawn in a financial game between two Government departments – the MoD and the Treasury.

The Treasury wins – but what a price to pay!



A day to remember . . . little girls chat to the Princess Royal after she opens Airport Camp Services Children's School, Belize. What were they saying? A junior version of "It ain't 'arf 'ot, ma'am"



WITH FAMILIES IN MIND Anne Armstrong

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Disabled test case awaits appeal result

SSgt ROBERT Lewis is awaiting the outcome of an appeal to the Social Security Commissioner in an effort to win Severe Disablement Allowance for his wife, Lynda.

The case, heard on September 28 in Leeds, was based on the fact that Lynda had followed Robert to postings in West Germany, Hong Kong and Berlin (a total of 11 years out of the past 20) which, on the present interpretation of the SDA rules, debars her from the allowance of £26.20.

Robert's test case shows that anyone who marries a Serviceman may be penalised.

In the Lewis case the interpretation of the regulations with regard to residence or presence within the UK needs clarifying, as it appears that if presence and residence are linked the restrictions are even greater.

I find it particularly disturbing that there should ever be any argument as to the rules of residence for Servicemen's families.

Robert and Lynda have certainly been penalised because he is a member of the Armed Forces.

He has lost money and as a result has been unable to give his wife the best care.

After 17 years it is hard for him to realise that his own country does not want to know!

It is even harder to bear when wives cannot work in so many areas overseas and are unable to pay Class I National Insurance contributions and so are excluded from claiming Invalidity Benefit of £43.60 a week.



Brig Mike Gardner, Director Army Quartering, says it with flowers as the last married quarter on the new Talavera Park estate at Aldershot is handed over. The bouquet went to Mrs Jane Charters whose husband, Roy, a corporal in The Parachute Regiment, got an engraved key. The Charters family, with daughters Vicky and Jemima, are pictured above with members of the firm which built the 163 quarters 14 weeks ahead of time.

The old heave ho from Hove

A FAMILIES officer writes that a soldier on a nine-year engagement applied to Hove council for a local authority house at the end of his service.

It prompted the following reply stating they were unable to consider him for housing even though he has a job in Hove:

"After careful consideration the Committee has taken the view that accommodation should not be offered you in your present circumstances.

"The council does endeavour to assist persons leaving HM Forces but again the Committee's view is that this facility should be made available to those persons who are leaving the Forces after a considerable period of service.

"It is also felt that the reasons for your discharge are not sufficiently strong to warrant the Council accepting responsibility for you and your family.

"This decision is taken in the light of diminishing resources available to the Council (the housing stock is decreasing rather than increasing) and the many demands placed upon the council for accommodation. Quite frankly, it is not possible to assist everybody who is seeking rehousing.

"In these circumstances you will need to either obtain your own accommodation privately or, perhaps, reconsider your decision to leave the Service."

In so many words the council is intimating that the soldier is making himself intentionally homeless and so outside local authority responsibility.

If this is so it could be applied by other authorities to all soldiers on engagements of nine, 12 or even 22 years.

Take cover!

PAX Personal Accident Insurance, a new policy put together by a major company in conjunction with the Army and Navy, is aimed at overcoming problems I raised in a previous issue.

Individual cover of £1.50 a unit a month or £2.84 a unit per month for you and your family, must give Servicemen a good deal for their money. Up to 15 units, a total of £150,000 cover can be bought.

Initial reaction from Servicemen I spoke to was to welcome the initiative. The premiums are possible for those with low wages.

R and R weekends during military commitments, or those few hours off during skiing training will be covered.

The Permanent Cadre of the UDR and all personnel of the Brigade of Gurkhas are eligible for PAX. The scheme complements the Army's life insurance scheme ADAT 88.

Soldiers are paid for 24 hours, 365 days a year but when are they on duty and when are they off duty?

An average of 200 Servicemen a year died between 1982 and 1987

and more than 200 had serious injury and were medically discharged but compensation levels depended on whether they were on duty or not.

The words "Not on duty" after injury or death can have a devastating effect on a pension.

A private soldier with two years or less service receives nothing if discharged as the result of a non-attributable injury. Even after five years he would get an annual pension of only £1,292 and a one-off lump sum of £3,873 although the DSS may make further awards.

PAX Insurance gives a Serviceman world-wide cover, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on and off duty. Military duties, such as service in Northern Ireland are covered. But, as in civilian life higher premiums, will be required for high risk occupations (such as parachuting).

Sporting and motor cycling activities are covered but not professional sports where payment is received.

Spouses and children can be covered and premiums can be conveniently deducted from pay.

Examples: A soldier dives into the sea, strikes his head on a submerged rock and suffers total paralysis. If the Serviceman had taken out five units of family cover PAX would pay out £50,000.

On the other hand a rugby injury could result in a disability and medical discharge but still allow the Serviceman to get a civilian job. If he had ten units of £1.50 he would receive £25,000 from PAX.

If in Northern Ireland a bomb exploded leaving a soldier minus his right arm eight units would give £80,000 of cover. PAX payments cover accidental death and injury, not death or incapacity caused by disease or illness.

"Protection for you and your family against the consequences of accidents resulting in death or serious injury can cost from as little as 35p a week," says PAX.

The decision whether and with whom you take out personal accident insurance is a matter for the individual and the MoD does not accept liability. But I urge you at least to read the leaflets available.

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Watercolour pictures of British soldiers of any period painted to order by Brian Fraser Harrison, Peddars Cottage, Hestett, Bury St, Edmunds IP30 9AX. Examples available.

British Army barbed wire handlers, gloves metal inserts £4.95. British Army Arctic Ski Gloves £2.95. RAF Aircrew green socks £3.99. All items are brand new and unissued. Postage £2 per order. 20p stamp for free list. Fray's Government Surplus, Unit 14B Roudham Park Industrial Estate, Nr East Harling, Norfolk NR16 2QN. Tel: (0953) 717873, (0508) 20789.

Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia. SAE for free list, Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Bellevue Street, Filey, North Yorks.

Cap badges, shoulder titles, collar badges, all genuine, December list. M. Spencer, Spennings, 5 Hugill St, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD13 3JW.

Rhodesian and South African uniforms, medals, badges and books for sale. Send 20p coin for a list to Kaplans, Box 890638, Lyndhurst 2106, Johannesburg, South Africa.

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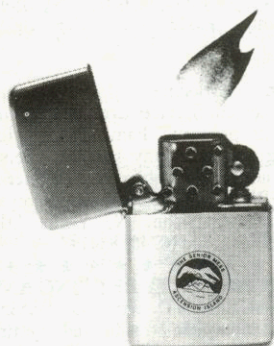
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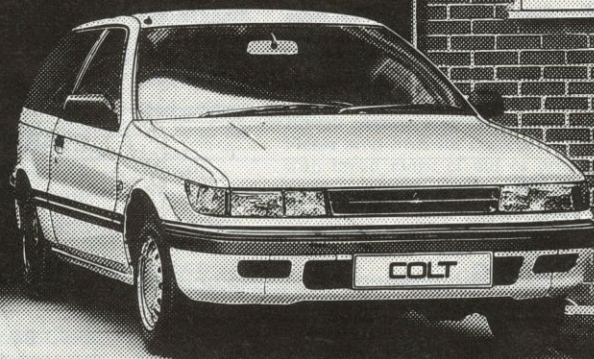


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Signallers on the Wang

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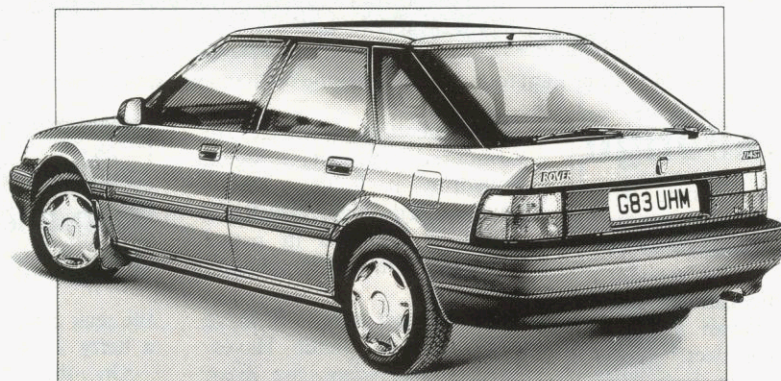
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Ruhr Pocket: The wrong option

ONE thing is certain, Leo Kessler's latest book, *The Battle of the Ruhr Pocket*, is not going to do much for friendship within the Western Alliance.

According to the author, the greatest Allied mistake of the Second World War was Eisenhower's telegram of March 28, 1945 to Stalin announcing he had made a major change in Allied strategy for the rest of the war. Instead of advancing on Berlin... he would "encircle and destroy the enemy forces defending the Ruhr", and halt his troops on the Elbe.

The Supreme Commander's lone decision was destined to split the Allied generals, tie up most of the American forces and cause much avoidable loss of life.

"Why were 18 American divisions employed from March 25 to April 17, 1945 in the Battle of the Ruhr Pocket, a battle that should never have been fought?" Kessler asks.

The book again poses the question that has plagued military and political historians since the end of the war: how different would have been the shape of Europe had there been no such divergence among the Allied commanders after the Normandy landings? The first time Montgomery had met the future Supreme Commander he had characterised him scath-

ingly as "Nice chap - no soldier".

Now, as Montgomery waited at his remote tactical HQ, the American top brass were working flat out to repay Monty for all the snubs and insults they felt they had suffered at his hands.

Soon the British field marshal would learn that not only was Ike "no soldier", he was not a "nice chap" either.

This is a well written and compelling book, beginning with a 1955 search for the remains of German Field Marshal Otto Walter Model that gets the reader eager to know more about the battle of German Army Group B, whose commander took his own life rather than face the ignominy of defeat.

Details such as the fact that Gen J Lawton Collins, commanding US VIII Corps, was fighting on familiar ground (he had been married after the First World War at Koblenz and had journeyed on the gaily painted Rhine paddle steamers at Koenigswinter) add a fresh dimension to the story.

Some incongruous things happened in this battle.

"At one stage Merriam's light tanks were approaching a railway line when there was the hoot of a train whistle; Merriam called them to a halt. Moments later the train rumbled past - a troop train, packed with German soldiers and armoured vehicles. Merriam was so close that he could see the individual hairs on men's faces where they

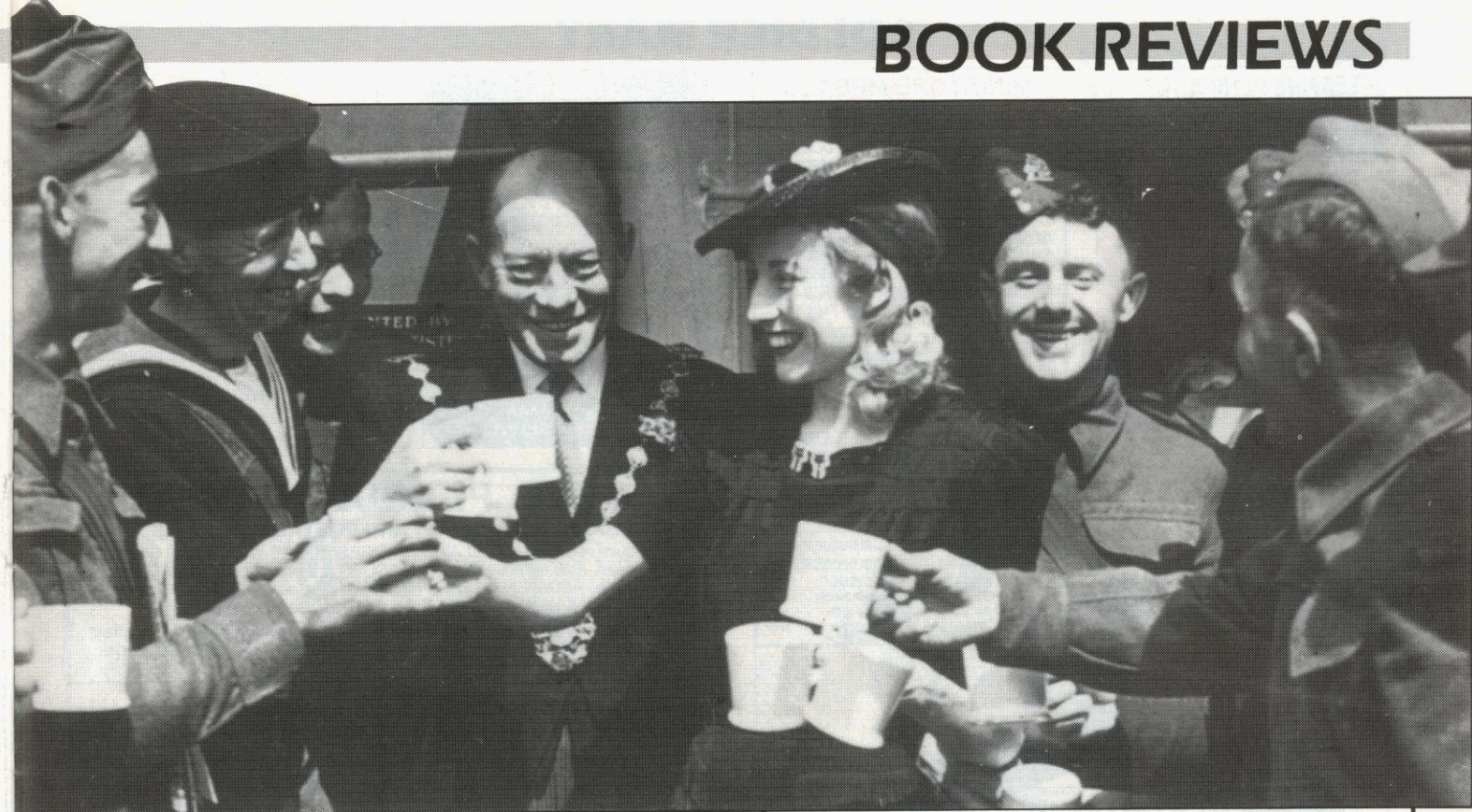
hadn't shaved. As the train headed west, he stared after it open-mouthed, gaping like a village idiot. His men had not fired a single shot!"

There still survive many German, British, American and other Allied Servicemen who suffer sleepless nights over what they did so many years ago. Surely, their number must include the GIs who, in the tiny hamlet of Spitze, gunned down 21 surrendered soldiers and a middle-aged policeman because they were groundlessly suspected of resisting under cover of the white flag.

On the morning of Tuesday, April 17, the battered remnants of Model's Army Group B ceased to exist. Never before had a senior commander disbanded his army in the middle of a battle.

"Now they are all gone, those old men who had sent their young soldiers into the Ruhr Pocket. Soldiers like Gavin's paras, trapped beside the Rhine; Sgt Patersen of 'the Big Red One' fighting to the bitter end; Rose's tankers, trapped and beaten on the road to Paderborn... and a whole host of others... All those young GIs had fought and died for their top brass, not knowing that the sweat, pain and sacrifice had been in vain... In the end the Battle for the Ruhr Pocket was not worth one red cent." - BJ

● **The Battle of the Ruhr Pocket April 1945** by Leo Kessler. Published by Leo Cooper. Hardback £12.95.



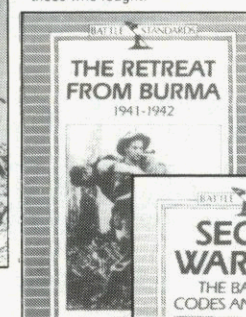
Tea with Vera was a moment to savour for these British soldiers lucky enough to meet the Forces Sweetheart. The photograph is taken from the dust jacket of *We'll Meet Again*, a nostalgic look back to the war years by Dame Vera Lynn in collaboration with historian and broadcaster Robin Cross. Published by Sidgwick and Jackson, this splendidly illustrated volume is priced at £14.95.

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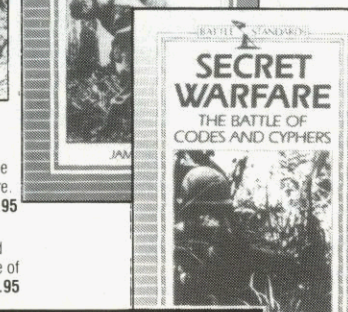
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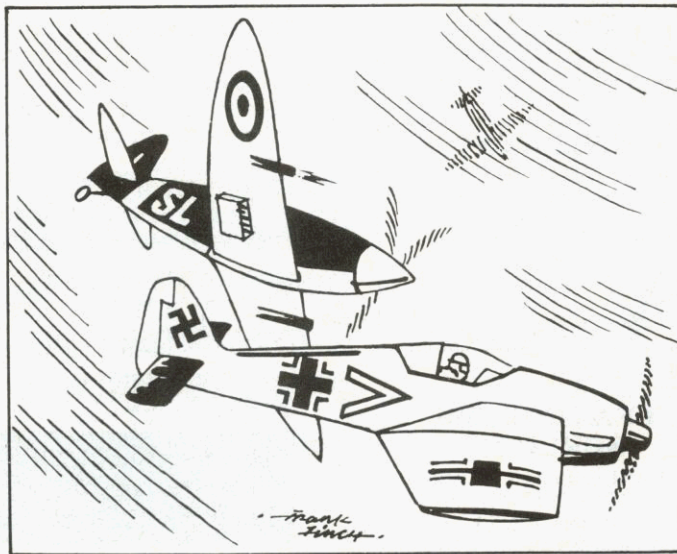
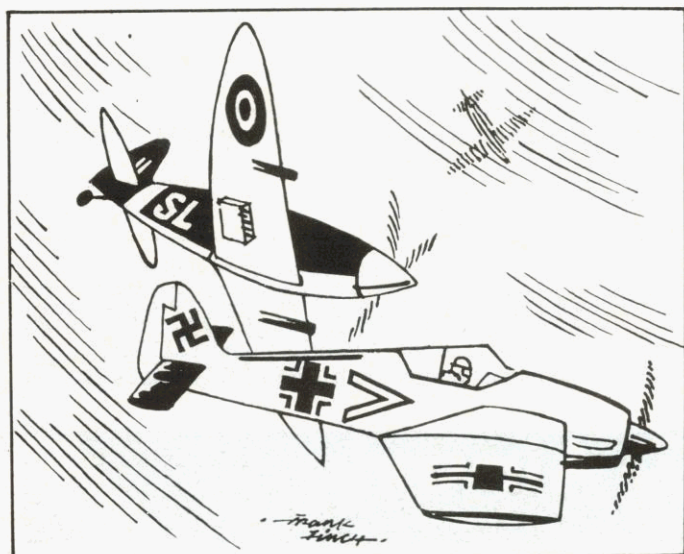
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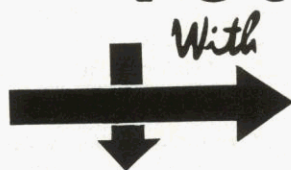
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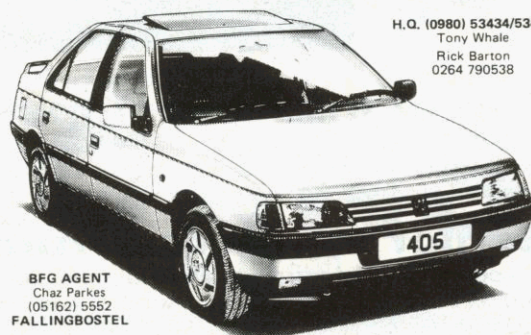
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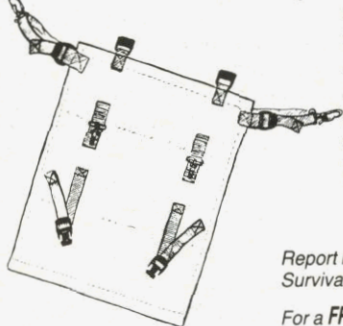
About the only negative point I can make is that there is no
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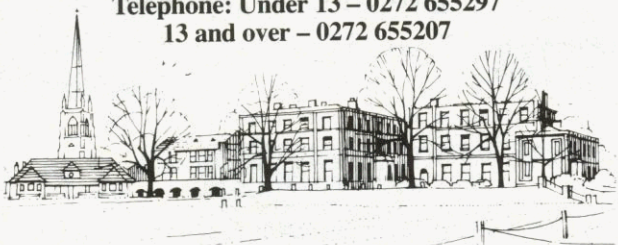
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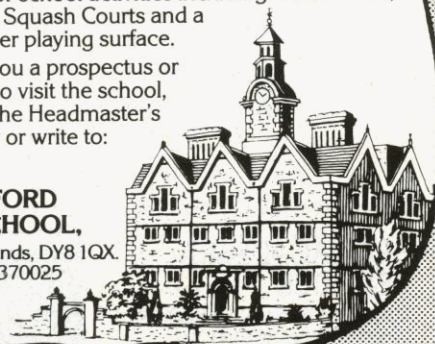
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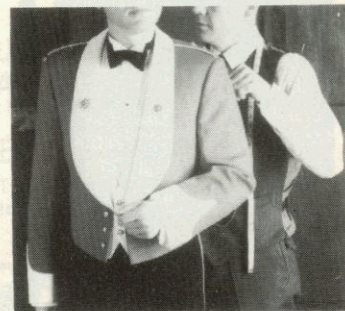
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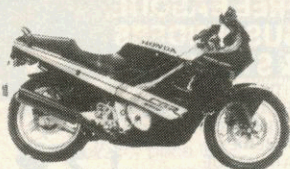
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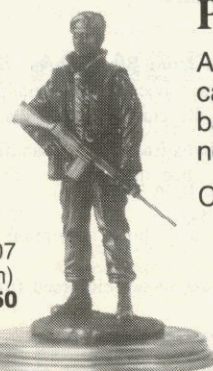
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Skipper Esson quits Defender

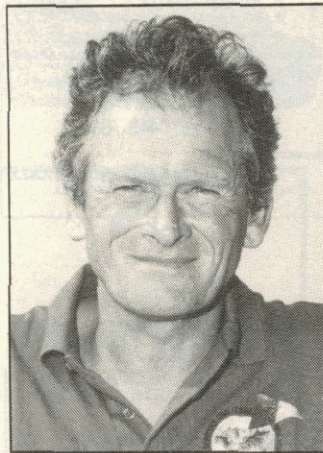
SATQUOTE British Defender set out from Uruguay on October 28 at the start of the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

The Services entry has undergone a change in skipper with the departure of Lt Col Frank Esson who took the yacht to ninth place at the end of the first leg.

He resigned following an assessment of tasks undertaken during the first leg. As a result it was decided to combine the tasks of skipper and navigator.

New skipper is Lt Cdr Colin Watkins RN who was navigator on the first part of the race and who like his crew has spent the rest period in Punta del Este carrying out a refit on the yacht.

SBD has had its electrical system refurbished, a problem with the navigational computer has been de-bugged and



Lt Col Frank Esson

extensive work has been carried out on the sails and rigging to get the craft into tip-top condition for the 8,000 mile voyage to Australasia.

The route will involve plenty of white sea sailing and the chance of encountering massive icebergs.

'Best ever' new squad shapes up

WO2 Mick Gannon did not pull his punches when he assessed the potential of the squad he has pulled together at the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot.

"This team is the best I've ever had. They are spot on," was how the Army boxing coach described the lads who will be aiming in the New Year to win the Inter-Service team championship for a seventh consecutive year, writes John Elliott.

"I'd like to say a personal thanks from the Army Boxing Association to the commanding officers who have made it possible to produce such a strong squad," said Gannon.

Typical of that co-operation was Berlin based 1 RWF's approval for former light-heavyweight Cpl Danny Coyle to become Gannon's right hand

man during the winter campaign. Coyle will be "commuting" to Berlin to prepare his battalion team for the BAOR championships.

New captain of Army boxing is LCpl Dave Abbott. The big Grenadier Guardsman made huge progress at heavyweight last season and his confidence has been further boosted by a summons to join the England squad in training at Crystal Palace.

LCpl Steve Burford (4/7 DG), Spr Lee Innes (22 Engr Regt) and Pte John Culwick (23 Para Fd Amb RAMC) have also trained with the national team.

The Army's two current internationals, LCpl John McLean (39 Engr Regt) of Scotland and Sgt Keith Howlett, APTC, of England have been selected by their respective countries for the



Not a pretty sight? But don't let them hear you say so! The new Army boxing squad lines up for the camera. Coaches WO2 Mick Gannon (left) and Cpl Danny Coyle (right) are in the back row

Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand in January. As a result both will miss the Army-RAF match.

Back in training after a long lay-off is LSgt Dean Hunt (WG), the 1984 CSBA light-welterweight champion. His enthusiasm for the sport has returned with interest and he will be looking to emulate his achievements of five years ago when he reached the ABA quarter-finals.

Of last year's team, LCpl Galley Gallagher and Pte Pete Campbell (both 1 Staffords), LCpl Chris Whittaker ACC (26

Engr Regt), Gdsm Jimmy Brennan (IG) and Cpl Andy Lesbirel (3 RGJ) provide the squad with tried and tested experience, while Gannon has several exciting new prospects in the wings.

They include former junior ABA champion Tpr Mark McGowan (1 RTR) who joined the squad straight from basic training, Dvr Chris Bessey (8 Regt RCT), Spr Gary Bennett (28 Engr Regt), and two who impressed at last year's novice championships, Pte John Dowling (1 Para) and Dvr Steve Sutton (10 Regt RCT).

It all adds up to a potent challenge to the RAF on February 1 and the Royal Navy at Aldershot on February 15. The CSBA individual championships take place at Portsmouth on March 1, and the CSBA v Western Counties match (an England ABA quarter-final) is at the same venue on March 15.

The BAOR individual championships take place in Berlin on March 12-14.

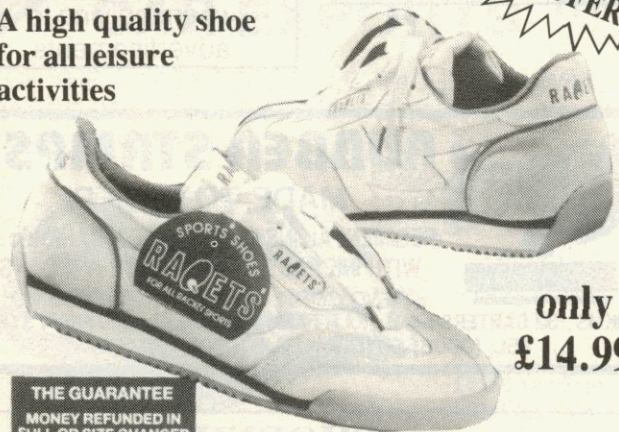
The Army is again hosting the semi-finals of the National Association of Boys' Clubs (NABC) championships, at

Aldershot on December 16. In fact, the Army has affiliated itself to the junior body, opening up a range of top competitive opportunities for boxers up to Under-19 level. The country's future ABA champions and international boxers invariably rise from the ranks of those who have done well in the boys' club competition.

Four young members of the squad - Spr Bennett, Tpr McGowan, Pte McMullen and Dvr Bessie - have reached the regional finals of the NABC competition.

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Marathon men triumph again

ARMY athletes ran out on top at the Inter-Service and Army marathon championships held at RAF Swindorby, despite being given a run for their money by the tax men!

First home was Sgt Jeff Martin of 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment who completed the 26 mile 385 yard course in 2hrs 24mins 20secs.

It was a very creditable time considering the heavy rain and gale force winds that the runners had to endure.

Second was Sgt Dougie Collins (2hrs 27mins 14secs) and taking third place for the second year in succession was Capt Peter Marsh (2hrs 28mins 16secs). Both were members of the victorious team from 9 Ordnance Battalion RAOC who

lifted the Army minor units' team prize.

The major units' title was won for the third successive year by Catterick based 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. LCpl Jimmy Clune was fifth overall in 2:34.24 to lead 1 PWO home. The team's other scorers were Pte Karl Hutchinson and Pte Ian Baird who has run in all three winning PWO teams.

First veteran home was Maj Keith Arnold, RAEC, and the first Royal Air Force runner home was in seventh place. Two guest runners from the Inland Revenue gave the Servicemen a shock by taking second and fifth places overall.

It was the Army's fourth successive win in the marathon.

Gilbert Trophy retained

THE Regular Army set a new record with a team average of 1,109 in winning the PSK match at the Inter-Services long range small bore championships shot on Ash Ranges, Aldershot.

The Regulars retained the Gilbert Trophy for the championship by winning both PSK and 50 metre matches and taking second place to the Territorial Army in the long range match. The TA were second overall with the Royal Air Force third.

OCdt G Winch of the TA won the Inter-Services long range individual championship with Regulars WO2 Tony Cheese and Maj Alan Glasby second and third.

Ash Ranges were also the venue for the final stages of the Army small bore target rifle championship which was shot

... but TA wins at long range

concurrently with the Army long range match and the three positions match.

In the first of three stages 60 shots at 25 yards were fired non-centrally by Sgt Mick Bagot (RAPC) who scored a possible 600, followed by Maj Alan Glasby (RAOC) on 599, and Maj John Shaw (RRF) and Sgt Jim Gordon (RA) on 596.

At the end of the second stage of 60 shots at 50 metres and 60 shots at 100 yards Bagot had extended his lead over Glasby to three points. Third was Gordon.

The third stage involved 40 shots prone, 40 standing and 40 kneeling at 50 metres. Despite a heavy shower WO2 Bill Mcneil (ACC) came from 16 points behind to take the championship by a 21 point

margin from Bagot with Glasby third. Army long range champion was Mick Bagot, with Glasby second and Capt Peter Underhill third.

On his bike

LCPL Ed Nicholl of 35 Engr Regt was the fourth British rider home in 26th position in the world mountain bike championship in Belgium. He is a member of the British Winter Olympics biathlon team and hopes to represent the UK in next year's world championships.

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Shake-up on the piste

Marina Trophy future in doubt

REGIMENTAL ski team captains in BAOR are preparing for the ski season knowing it may be the last for the prestigious Princess Marina Trophy in its present form, writes Glen Grant.

With the competition between the holders 35 Engineer Regiment, 22 Signal Regiment and 19 Field Regiment RA looking more exciting than ever, BAOR Chairman Maj Gen David Quayle, the Artillery Commander, opened the BAOR ski convention with the ominous warning that the financiers were trying to change competitive skiing from adventurous training to sport.

Already the MOD has changed the allowances rule for the movement and training vote to cut £10,000.

Soldiers on Exercise Snow Queen could no longer claim refunds for food and accommodation if the change to sport was made.

Teams would then be faced with food bills currently funded by the Exchequer, and other allowances would also be cut. Most team captains felt their units would be unable to meet



Maj John Elder (left) and Maj Peter Angus at work during a "hot" service

RALLY CHALLENGE MOUNTED

TWO Wiltshire based officers have formed a rally team to compete in the Vauxhall Astra/Nova Challenge this winter.

Maj Peter Angus, RA, who is returning to the sport after a break of ten years, and Army doctor Maj John Elder, RAMC, currently serving with 16 Fd Amb at Bulford, have teamed up as driver and

navigator of Maj Angus's challenge specification Vauxhall Astra SR 1.3.

So far they have competed in several Welsh Forest events and last month finished 44th out of 119 and seventh in class in the Great Western Rally. They also plan to enter the Devil's Tour on Salisbury Plain this month, the Ringwood Stages in December and the

Mazda Winter Stages Rally in January.

The team, which calls itself Angel Rally Sport, is backed up by an enthusiastic service crew of REME personnel from 16 Fd Amb. Other assistance is being given by the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill.

Maj Angus completed a Scottish and an RAC rally while previously active in the sport.

the considerable extra cost.

The penalty would appear to be that fewer units would ski in competition or training would be reduced. Snow Queen would lose its pool of experienced instructors and ski standards across the whole of BAOR would fall.

The secretary of the BAOR Sports Board Lt Col Ian Jones told the convention he was unsure if the Sport Board had the capacity or the money to run the Divisional or Army

meetings in their present format.

The bombshell comes at a time when units are being encouraged to look for challenging pursuits to compensate for reduced training opportunities and to improve retention.

Gen Quayle pointed out the proposal had yet to go before the chain of command.

Nordic skiing will have a new shape this season. The 4 × 7½km biathlon now becomes a skating event which should benefit the teams with national squad skiers who use skating all the time and especially the holders, 35 Engineer Regiment, who have always preferred the skating events to the old classical style.

The change will prove a considerable challenge at Divisional level for the less capable skiers but a track will be cut alongside the skating piste for those who can only ski classically. Few should want to use this, as skating is 15 to 20 per cent faster.

The convention was split by the news that the 30km patrol race must continue to have a novice in the team of four. The

better teams were unhappy while the weaker teams saw it as an opportunity to draw level.

The overall effect on the patrol race is to reduce it to the standard of the novice.

DOWNHILL

Major changes in the Alpine side of the Marina Trophy were the introduction of a third practice day for the Downhill event and the earlier removal of the seeding points from the first non counting seeding race.

Few will argue with the extra day's Downhill training for what is arguably the most dangerous form of training in the military calendar.

Seeding means Marina races will have a greater importance and a failure by an Alpine skier will lower his start position. In the past the seeding race position often bolstered a skier who deserved to be penalised.

● Maj Glen Grant, a Battery Commander with 19 Fd Regt RA at Dortmund, will be contributing columns to the SOLDIER sports pages. A former international athlete at 800m and 1,500m (he reached both finals in the 1978 Commonwealth Games), Maj Grant is skiing coach to 19 Fd Regt, whose Nordic team were Army runners up last winter. In the next issue he will be looking at the teams who will be contesting the 1990 ski competitions.



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SOLDIER



Look, Mum, no hands! A soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment enjoys the breathtaking view during adventure training in Jasper National Park in the Rocky Mountains. The Dukes were in Canada for a seven week exercise based at Wainwright on the Alberta Plain. Story and more pictures in Pages 14-15.

Picture: WO2 Arthur Thomson.